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ELLE DECOR
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010 VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1

Far left: The living area of Monica Mandelli and Marco Valla's Manhattan apartment. Below left: Contemporary and vintage artworks and glassware in the New York City home of Juan Carlos Garcia-Lavin. On the cover: The living room of an Upper East Side duplex designed by Daniel Romualdez. "Clean Living," page 104. Photography by Pieter Estersohn; produced by Wendy Goodman.

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TOP LEFT: JOSHUA MCHUGH; BOTTOM: SIMON UPTON

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Clockwise from top: The living room of interior designer David Kleinberg's duplex in Palm Beach, Florida. Marie Brandolini's golden glassware. The garden of a house designed by Steven Gambrel in Southampton, New York.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WILLIAM WALDRON; GEOFFREY SOKOL; ERIC PIASECKI

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All correspondence should be addressed to 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Tel: 212-767-5800

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As many of you know, the magazine industry—particularly the design category—has been besieged by both the economic recession and the revolutionary changes the Internet has brought to the media landscape. Several publications have folded during the past two years, budgets have been battered, and staffs drastically reduced. All of us at ELLE DECOR were especially saddened by the closure of our sister publication, *Metropolitan Home,* the iconic chronicle of the best in modern design for 28 years. We honor and salute *Met Home's* legacy, and we miss our colleagues, keenly aware that this loss will be shared by the magazine's more than half-million readers.

Recently, I've been completely absorbed by design-blog postings regarding interiors magazines; the deep attachment people have for beloved publications is so heartening to see. Truth be told, I too sorely miss *House & Garden, Domino, Southern Accents,* and *Cottage Living*—as does anyone who is passionate about interiors and design. And for those who are searching to make sense of this topsy-turvy editorial world, the facts are shockingly simple.

Historically, advertising revenue subsidized a substantial portion of the manufacturing and distribution costs of most magazines. During this financial crisis, advertising has plummeted; competition from digital media has grown exponentially; and production, paper, and postage costs have all increased markedly. Yet a year's subscription to any of your favorite publications still probably costs less than a taxi ride or a couple of cappuccinos at Starbucks. Crazy, no?

But don't lose hope. Challenging times spark creativity, ingenuity, and industry, and the months ahead show great promise. Digital innovations now offer us myriad opportunities to provide astonishing amounts of ideas and information online, as well as videos, interactive tools, resources, and archives. And design bloggers have stimulated an animated and powerful dialogue based largely on images published in magazines. They are our treasured partners, and the conversation they engender and sense of community they encourage benefit us all.

The new reality at ELLE DECOR will encompass an even wider range of styles, as we embrace design features and contemporary projects we might have previously shied away from out of deference to the modern mind-set of *Met Home.* Moving forward, we will significantly increase our online presence with a new and improved elledecor.com, expand our architecture and renovation coverage both in print and on the Web, and, most important, continue to showcase the stylish lives and dazzling spaces we've celebrated for two decades. Our 20th anniversary has been a time to reflect on the past and to envision our future. And the future is now.

Margaret Russell, Editor in Chief
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FIROOZ ZAHEDI; MAKEUP BY MARGARET AVERY; HAIR BY ARSEN GURGOV AT LOUIS LICARI SALON

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Left: The Washington, D.C., townhouse of Darryl Carter. Below: The November cover.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

Pure and Polished

I gasped when I received the November issue. The cover is so inviting, and all the articles are beautiful, especially the feature on the Washington, D.C., townhouse of Darryl Carter ["Cool, Calm, and Collected"]. There's a very strong yet understated look throughout his place. This is definitely ELLE DECOR's best issue yet!

Manuel Iucciolino, Atlanta

Lasting Impression

Candia Fisher's amazing Manhattan apartment ["Light Motif," November] will remain etched in my mind—not just for its striking images, but for Ms. Fisher's touching story. Her home reveals her taste and sophistication as well as her deep family connections, and I appreciated her sharing it.

Jesse McDonald, via e-mail

Wonder Women

I had been looking forward to your "Women in Design" feature [November] and was thrilled by this year's selections. Each honoree offered insight and inspiration and a unique point of view, and I was happy to see you devote the space to something so worthwhile. I couldn't be at the event in New York, but I read all about it online and on the blogs, and I hope to attend in the future.

Amelia Anderson, Milwaukee, WI

On the Move

As a recent subscriber, I'm enjoying your magazine tremendously. My husband and I are buying a new place and will be moving around the holidays, and your pages are full of terrific ideas. One comment though—I'm not crazy about all the animal horns, tusks, etc. Other than that, cheers!

Teri Chavkin, Los Angeles

Mix Masters

I thought the Cacioppo family home in the November issue ["A Lexicon of Style"] was fantastic. While the photos were great and reading about the decorator's vision was interesting, the captions were chock-full of fascinating information. It is encouraging to see that a stunning house can be composed from a variety of styles and have antiques side by side with contemporary art. Keep stories like this coming!

Liz Hubert, Colorado Springs

Home Sweet Home

My parents owned the Tuxedo Park residence featured in "A Lexicon of Style," and for many decades we spent weekends and holidays there. It was truly adored by all of us, and I am pleased that the new owners are appreciating it in the same way we did—with a lot of love for family and the house.

Gale Guild, via elledecor.com

Bright Spot

There's hardly a page in your magazine I don't love, but I was truly captivated by the photos in September's "In the Glow" lighting feature. The shots were so simple and elegant. Once again, you shine.

Lori Keenan, Evanston, IL

Correction

We regret that in "ELLE DECOR's Guide to the 10 Best Barstools" [November], an incorrect price was given for the #645 stool by A. Rudin; it costs $2,375 c.o.m.

Send Mailbox your letters—but keep them short and to the point (we reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, and style). The address: Mailbox, ELLE DECOR, 1633 Broadway, 43rd floor, New York, NY 10019; e-mail: elledecormail@hfmus.com.

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What's Hot!

Dispatches from the world of design

Produced by Anita Sarsidi

GEOFFREY SOKOL

ALL AGLOW

PaganiStudio, known for its elegant and sculptural custom lighting, has teamed with Baker to create its first line of lamps, sconces, and chandeliers available at retail. The 19-piece Pagani Collection is handcrafted by Italian artisans and includes, from left, the French-plaster Linea (26.5" h.) and the bronze Mode (29.75" h.) and Anneau table lamps (28" h.). They cost $1,785, $1,850, and $2,360, respectively. Call 800-592-2537 or go to bakerfurniture.com. ▷

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what's hot!

1

1 NATURAL INSTINCT

The subtle textures of the handblown Sip and Water glasses by craftsman Michael Ruh were inspired by cocoons and wasp nests. They measure 3" h. and 6" h., respectively; are available in jay blue, lime, and orange, shown, plus yellow; and cost $75 each at John Derian Co. Call 212-677-3917 or visit johnderian.com.

2 TOUCHY SUBJECTS

Winsome cacti are handprinted on wallpaper, pillowcases, and posters in design studio Makelike's brand-new home collection, as well as on its Succulent linen tea towels, shown. They measure 18" w. x 23" l. and cost $28 each. Call 503-233-4843 or go to makelike.com/shop.

3 PILLOW TALK

Classic Liberty prints look fresh once again thanks to Julian Mejia Design's cotton-and-linen pillows. They come in a variety of colorways and patterns, including, from top, Strawberry Thief, Mauvey, and Pelagia, and cost $165 for an 18" square at Barneys New York. Call 888-8-BARNEYS or visit barneys.com.

4 BRANCHING OUT

Photographer Nathaniel Kramer's intriguing abstracted visions of cherry trees are now available at a special price for ELLE DECOR readers. Each of the five limited-edition photo collages, including *Cherry 7,* shown, is printed on heavyweight archival paper, measures 20" x 30", and costs $3,000. Call 917-463-3685 or go to gallery.me.com/nathanielkramer.

1, 2, 3: GEOFFREY SOKOL

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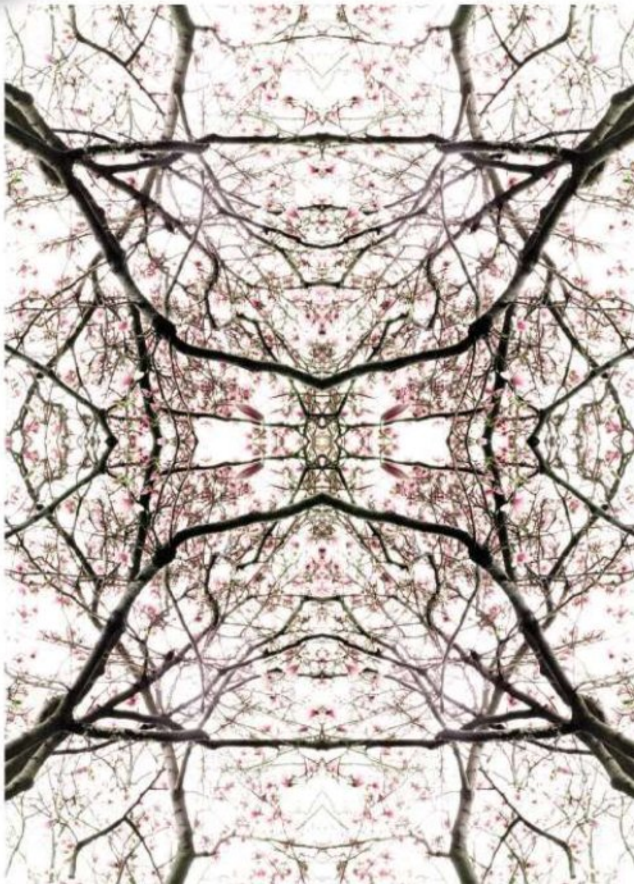

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what's hot!

1 TAKING THE FLOOR

Victoria Hagan's debut carpet collection for Mansour Modern combines organic and geometric motifs with the designer's signature subdued palette. The 27 patterns include the graphic Garden Gate, shown. A 5' x 8' silk rug is $6,000; custom colors, fibers, and sizes are also available. Call 310-652-1121 or visit mansourmodern.com.

2 SHAPING UP

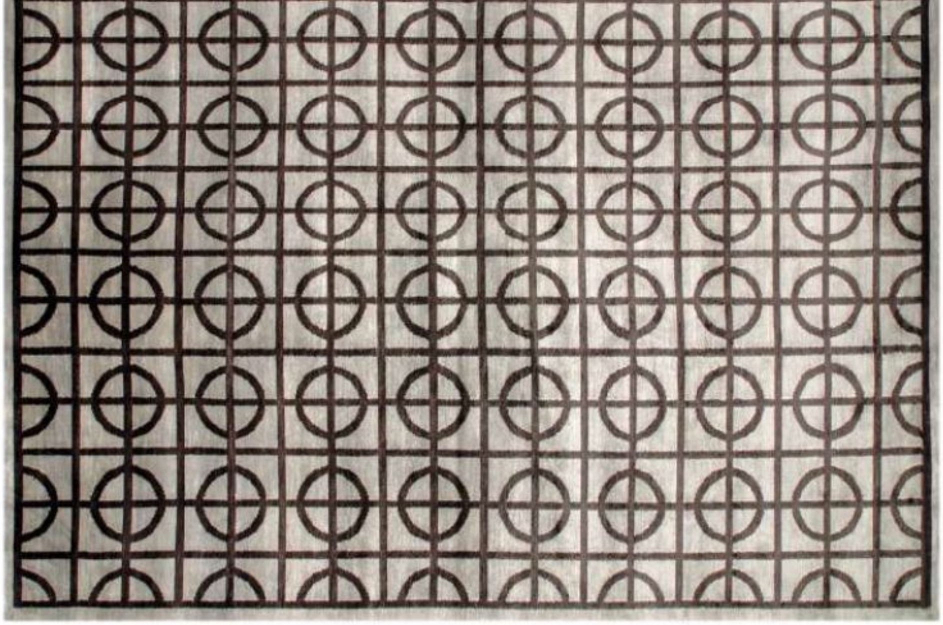
The Triangle console by Julian Chichester makes a bold statement with the simplest of silhouettes. The oak piece is offered in a black stain or a gray fumed-oak finish, or with a black vellum top and Firmdale gray base, shown. It measures 71" l. x 34.5" h. x 17.5" d. and costs $2,685. Call 336-886-2454 or go to julianchichester.com.

3 WEAVING A SPELL

Woven by Senegalese women from elephant grass and colorful strips of plastic used in prayer mats and rugs, Prayer Mat laundry hampers from Swahili Imports come in six colorways, including, from left, solid white and green-and-white. Prices range from $54 for a small hamper, measuring 16" h. x 10" dia., to $144 for a large, which is 26"–28" h. x 16" dia. Call 541-684-0688 or visit swahili-imports.com.

4 TINY BUBBLES

Champagne inspired both the sparkling hue and the effervescent pattern of the Gold Bubble Glass collection by Marie Brandolini for Laguna B. The handblown Murano-glass vessels are dishwasher-safe and range in price from $76 for the Goto Piccolo cup to $298 for a large salad bowl. Available at Barneys New York; call 888-8-BARNEYS or go to barneys.com.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3, 4: GEOFFREY SOKOL

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GAGOSIAN, NEW YORK CITY >

Larry Gagosian's new 2,500-square-foot shop, on the same block as his uptown gallery, showcases prints, magazines, and limited-edition books and multiples by art stars such as Jeff Koons, Ed Ruscha, and Richard Prince. Marc Newson designs are also offered, and the first American outpost of Damien Hirst's store, Other Criteria, occupies the lower level.
988 Madison Ave., 212-744-9200; gagosian.com

MATTHEWS HOUSE AND GARDEN, UPPERVILLE, VA ∨

Wanda Crossley has transformed a 175-year-old church into a light-filled 1,200-square-foot space stocked with Swedish antiques, Italian pottery, topiaries, and garden furniture, as well as items by BeeLine Home, Janus et Cie, and Chelsea Textiles. Interior- and landscape-design services are also available.
9160 John Mosby Hwy., 540-592-7147; matthewshouseandgarden.com

∧ THE SILVER PEACOCK, NEW YORK CITY

Home accessories ranging from French porcelain and organic bedding to vintage tableware and 1940s lamps are the focus at Charlie Akwa and Jennifer Flanders's new Manhattan boutique. The cozy store, whose teal walls recall the namesake bird, boasts a lounge serving Champagne and refreshments.
1110 Park Ave., 212-426-2610; thesilverpeacock.com

< PERRIN PARIS 1893, LOS ANGELES

The French leather-goods firm has opened its first U.S. shop in Beverly Hills. The jewel-box interior, designed by Chahan Minassian, displays the company's handbags and accessories in a luxe environment with floor-to-ceiling curtains of raw silk, pale travertine floors, and a 1950s Barovier chandelier.
346 N. Beverly Dr., 310-786-9936; perrinparis.com

Now Open

- FontanaArte, the Italian glass company known for its sleek architectural light fixtures, has moved its New York location to a spacious three-level SoHo showroom. *45 Greene St., 212-334-3295; fontanaarte.com*
- Room & Board has launched a Los Angeles–area outpost in an expansive 36,000-square-foot space in the Helms Bakery Complex in Culver City. *8707 Washington Blvd., 310-736-9100; roomandboard.com*
- Cutting-edge lighting and furnishings by Tom Dixon can now be found at the designer's debut shop in West London. *344 Ladbroke Grove, 011-44-20-7400-0500; tomdixon.net*
- Frédéric Malle's deluxe perfumes and home fragrances are showcased in his first U.S. Editions de Parfums boutique in Manhattan, designed by Patrick Naggar. *898 Madison Ave., 212-249-7941; editionsdeparfums.com*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF GAGOSIAN; LEV GORN; JESSE GRANT; WANDA CROSSLEY

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1 FINE PRINT

A 1930s former printing factory in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen is the site of the new boutique hotel Ink48. The Rockwell Group–designed property includes 222 loftlike rooms, many with Hudson River views, and a rooftop lounge. At 653 11th Ave. Call 212-757-0088; ink48.com.

2 BEYOND THE ALE

More than 500 beers share the spotlight with seasonal American fare at Washington, D.C.'s Birch & Barley, where natural materials such as bamboo floors and limestone tabletops create an earthy vibe. At 1337 14th St. Call 202-567-2576; birchandbarley.com.

3 VANTAGE POINT

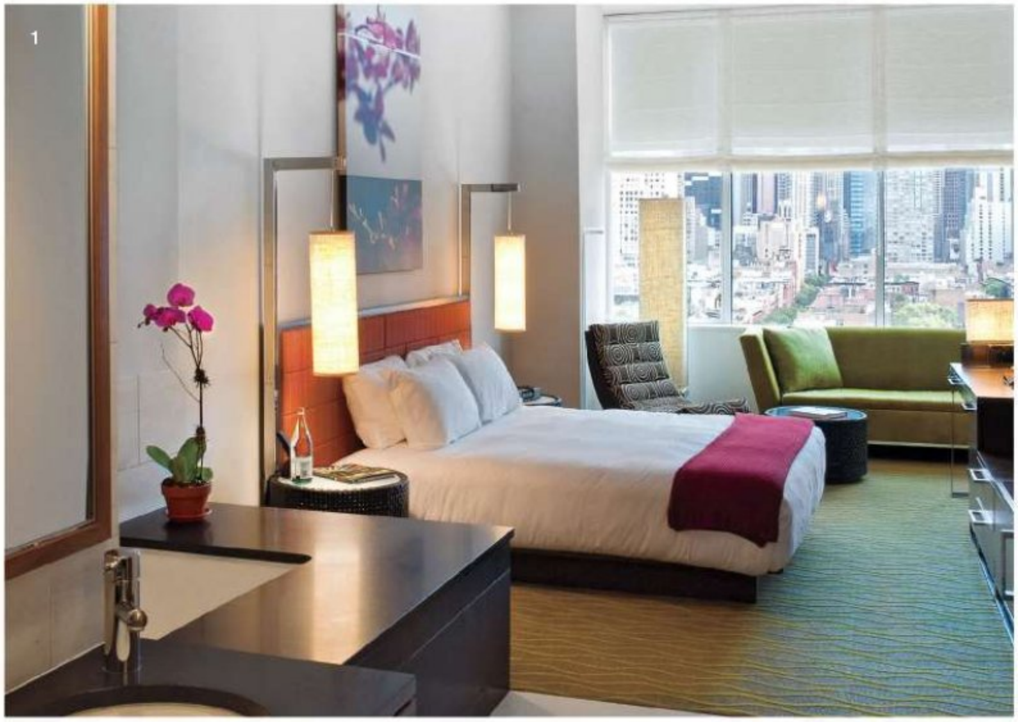
Stunning Puget Sound vistas complement the contemporary interior at Seattle's Ventana Restaurant. Diners tuck into New American cuisine amid soaring ceilings and tables resembling window panes. At 2323 First Ave. Call 206-441-4789; ventanaseattle.com.

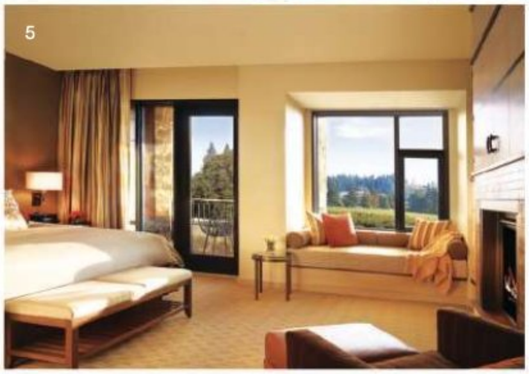
4 SET IN STONE

At New York City's Travertine, modern Mediterranean dishes are served in a casually elegant space featuring vintage-leather banquettes, reclaimed-maple floors, and crystal chandeliers. At 19 Kenmare St. Call 212-966-1810; travertinenyc.com.

5 GREEN ACRES

The Allison Inn & Spa in Newberg, Oregon, is situated on 35 acres of lush vineyards and gardens in the heart of the state's wine country. The eco-friendly hotel offers 85 spacious guest rooms with fireplaces and bay windows as well as an indoor swimming pool and fitness center in the spa. At 2525 Allison Ln. Call 503-554-2525; theallison.com.





FOR MORE NEW HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS, GO TO ELLEDECOR.COM.

1: BLANDON BELUSHIN; 2: POWERS AND CREWE PHOTOGRAPHY; 3: KEVIN FRYE; 4: MELISSA HOM; 5: BARBARA KRAFT

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GRAND GIFT

For four decades beginning in 1919, financier Chester Dale acquired art with the same zeal he pursued business deals, though when collecting he took guidance from his wife, Maud. In 1962 he left nearly 300 works to Washington, D.C.'s National Gallery of Art, where he had served as trustee and president. That bequest remains the backbone of the museum's 19th-century holdings and is celebrated in "From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection" with 81 paintings, including iconic images by Manet, Matisse, and Cézanne, as well as Henri Rousseau's 1909 *The Equatorial Jungle,* left. From January 31, 2010, to July 31, 2011; nga.gov.

FULLY BOOKED

Josef Albers published his revolutionary treatise Interaction of Color in 1963, and ever since it has been a touchstone for artists and designers. Now there's a deluxe new slipcased edition (Yale University Press, $200) that also includes never-before-seen studies from the Albers archive. Mattia Bonetti (Skira/Rizzoli, $55) pays tribute to the Swiss-born designer's sculptural and quirky furnishings with photographs by Reed Krakoff and an essay by Jacques Grange.

face to face

Irving Penn took his first portraits for *Vogue* in 1943, and until his death in October he continued to document artists, writers, actors, designers, and other cultural figures in his spare and incisive style. London's National Portrait Gallery has gathered more than 120 photographs—including Truman Capote, Edith Piaf, Salvador Dalí, and a 1965 print of ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, shown, for "Irving Penn Portraits." Several have never been displayed before. February 18 to June 6; npg.org.uk.

PAINTED PATTERNS

Readers of our January/February and December 2009 issues were intrigued by the graphic floors in two homes designed by Miles Redd. "Not only do they add excitement," says Redd, "but painted wood is more inviting—and less costly—than stone." Artisan Chris Pearson brushed two coats of Benjamin Moore's Satin Impervo onto unprimed wood to create the patterns. He then applied a tinted oil-based glaze before finishing with two coats of glossy polyurethane.

QUICK CHANGES

THE NEW YEAR CALLS FOR A NEW LOOK, SO HERE'S SOME EXPERT ADVICE ON SIMPLE WAYS TO CREATE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT IN A ROOM

- "I often inject a sharp jolt of color with something really practical—like a red-lacquer side table," says stylesetter Ashley Hicks. "Red works with almost any scheme and gives new life to any interior."
- "Change the foundation with a bold carpet," designer Jamie Drake proclaims. "Roll out a rug filled with color and joy. A circular one looks very now."
- Designer Timothy Whealon recommends creating a salon-style art arrangement. "You could use anything—prints, a folio from a book, wallpaper—to make a dramatic statement," he suggests.
- Decorator Anne Coyle is a fan of adding something shiny, such as a brass or lacquer object. "It catches your eye and creates tension. If everything is the same luminosity, it's boring."
- "Put all lighting on dimmers," declares tastemaker Joe D'Urso. "I find most people overlight their spaces. Creating a warm glow is best."

The Sabre red-lacquer table by Ashley Hicks; ashleyhicks.com.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART; © LES EDITIONS CONDÉ NAST S.A.; SIMON UPTON; MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA; COURTESY OF RAY MAIN

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Asymmetric Scissor cashmere-blend sheath dress by Michael Kors from fall 2009; michaelkors.com.

Dotto* polyurethane blend by Création Baumann; creationbaumann.com.

Ultrasuede-412* polyester by Kravet; kravet.com.

Barbie lacquer soap dish, lotion pump, and tumbler by Jonathan Adler; jonathanadler.com.

Mix metal table lamp by BoConcept; boconcept.com.

Speedmaster Ladies' Automatic Chronograph by Omega; omegawatches.com.

Landscape chaise longue by Jeffrey Bernett for B&B Italia; bebitalia.it.

Cavallini* European hair-on cowhide by Edelman Leather; edelmanleather.com.

Washed Canvas cotton by Ralph Lauren Home; ralphlaurenhome.com.

Original Women's Tall rubber boots by Hunter; nordstrom.com.

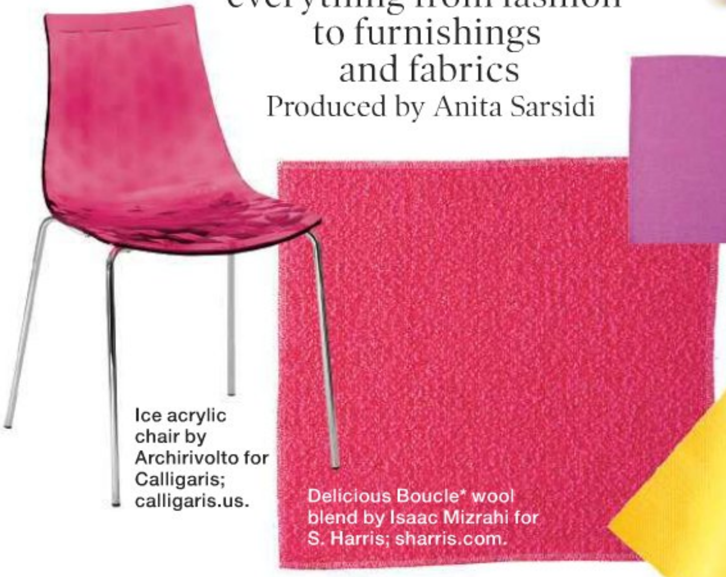
Cotton Club II* cotton by Manuel Canovas from Cowtan & Tout; cowtan.com.

Lizard oxidized-silver bangles by Bottega Veneta; bottegaveneta.com.

Neon

Pop Art brights are never more appealing than during winter's gray days. This season they energize everything from fashion to furnishings and fabrics

Produced by Anita Sarsidi



Ice acrylic chair by Archirivolto for Calligaris; calligaris.us.

Delicious Boucle* wool blend by Isaac Mizrahi for S. Harris; sharris.com.

Geneva* cotton-linen by Villa Romo; romo.com.

FABRICS, BOOTS, BANGLES, BATH ACCESSORIES: GEOFFREY SOKOL

*Available to the trade only. See Resources.

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What's new in the showrooms—fabrics, furnishings, and fabulous finds

1 Stylized lotus blossoms grace **Michaelian & Kohlberg's** Paloma rug, the latest addition to the company's M&K Signature Carpets collection. Handwoven of fuchsia wool and silk, it comes in standard and custom sizes. Call 212-431-9009; michaelian.com. 2 **Kravet** has introduced the Kravetsmart brand, featuring competitively priced furnishings, fabrics, carpets, and trimmings. The Holyoke ottoman (18.5" h. x 36"–48" dia.), shown, is part of the new label's 63-piece furniture line and is available in more than 60,000 fabrics and 300 leathers. Call 800-648-5728; kravetsmart.com. 3 **Cowtan & Tout's** most recent fabric collection includes Castello, an embroidered linen blend modeled after Moorish tile motifs at Spain's Alhambra Palace. It comes in red/blue, shown, and two other colorways. Call 212-647-6900; cowtan.com. 4 **A. Rudin's** crisply tailored #712 lounge chair sports a curved back and a swiveling base. It's fully customizable, measures 32" h. x 31" w. x 34" d., and is available in more than 20 fabrics and 40 leathers as well as c.o.m. Call 310-659-2388; arudin.com. 5 Made of glass and brass, the elegant Brenna Hexagonal table from **Lewis Mittman** is a modern twist on a traditional Moroccan design. It measures 19.75" h. x 17.5" dia. and comes in an antique (shown), polished, or satin finish. Call 212-888-5580; ef-lm.com. 6 **S. Harris** has teamed with interior designer **Amy Lau** to launch her first fabric line. Among the 35 offerings is Impasto, a ribbed polyester blend, which comes in four vivid colors. Call 800-999-5600; sharris.com.

3, 6: JOSHUA MCHUGH

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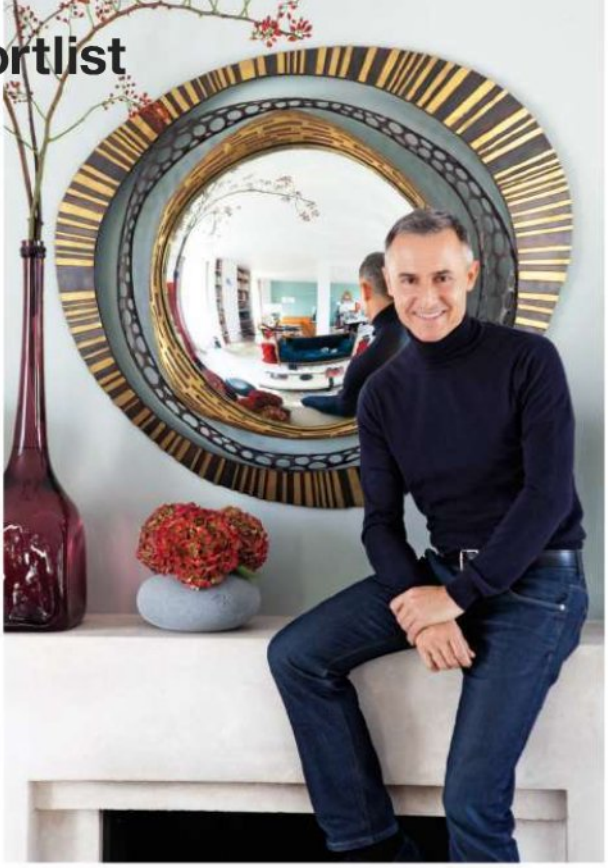
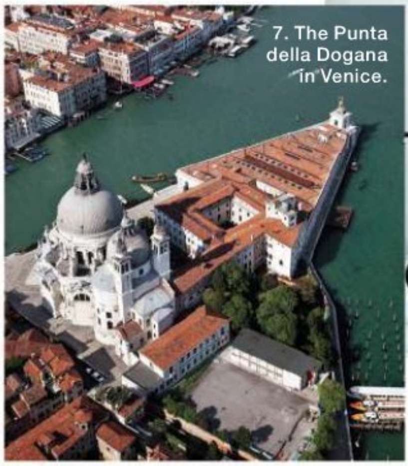




7. The Punta della Dogana in Venice.

10. Xavier Veilhan mobile.

12. Bruno Frisoni shoes.

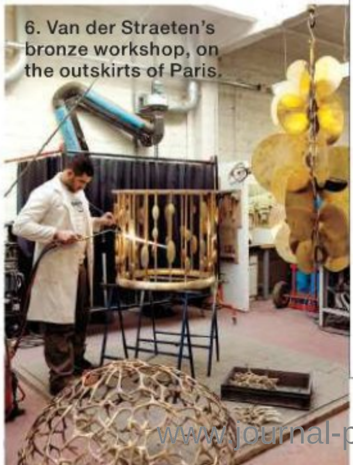
Hervé Van der Straeten

12 things he can't live without

By Ian Phillips

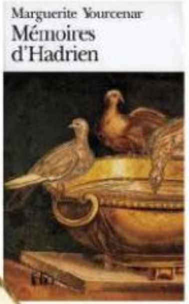
When he was a child, Hervé Van der Straeten didn't build houses from Legos—he constructed chariots for Cleopatra. Ever since, the Paris-based designer has never ceased making amazing and fanciful objects. While still at school, he began creating jewelry, and at 19, he was approached by fashion designer Thierry Mugler to devise accessories for his runway shows. He went on to craft necklaces with gilt-metal rhinoceros teeth for Christian Lacroix and helmets out of Japanese yen for Alexander McQueen. More recent commissions have included vases and tableware for Bernardaud, crystal stemware for Saint-Louis, the packaging for Guerlain's Kiss Kiss lipsticks, and perfume bottles for Christian Dior's J'adore and Helena Rubinstein's Wanted.

Above all, however, Van der Straeten is best known for his exquisite-looking and exquisitely made furniture in luxe materials like bronze, parchment, and lacquer. He sells his signature designs to a top-notch client list at his Paris showroom and at Ralph Pucci International in the States. Some of his pieces are organic, with forms reminiscent of rose thorns or deer antlers; others are graphic and geometric, such as a console of stacked sterling-silver cubes that appears to confound the laws of gravity. Ask Van der Straeten about future ambitions, meanwhile, and he mentions designing sets for opera and dance. As he says, "It's better to work in many different fields rather than limiting yourself to one."



6. Van der Straeten's bronze workshop, on the outskirts of Paris.

1. Notebooks for sketching; I take them everywhere.
2. My country place, a charming little 18th-century house in the north of Burgundy, close enough to Paris that I can get there easily.
3. White candles, a must at any dinner. They provide the best lighting on faces.
4. Ruinart Blanc de Blancs, my favorite Champagne. So delicate and light!
5. A good large stove with lots of burners so I can prepare many different dishes at once.
6. My workshops: One for bronze and one for carpentry.
7. Discovering museums. One recent find is the François Pinault Foundation's Punta della Dogana in Venice.
8. "Stabat Mater" by Pergolesi. I listen to it each time with the same emotion, whether in the car or in the chapel at the Château de Versailles.
9. Books. I particularly like Japanese literature and classics like *Memoirs of Hadrien.*
10. My Xavier Veilhan mobile. It's called *Petit Mobile* despite the fact that it fills up a lot of space.
11. Paris's movie theaters. We have such amazing choices.
12. Bruno Frisoni shoes—classics with a twist. I have about a dozen pairs.



9. Yourcenar's *Memoirs of Hadrien.*

4. Ruinart Champagne.

1. Design notebook.

PORTRAIT, 1, 8, 10, 12: CECIL MATHIEU; SEE RESOURCES

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Warming Trends

Every room needs a strong focal point—here are five fireplaces that take a leading role, adding both drama and dimension

1 Decorator Vicente Wolf installed a freestanding fireplace with a minimalist Durock cement-board surround of his own design in a Hamptons ranch house turned contemporary glass pavilion. 2 For hotelier Jason Pomeranc's swank Manhattan loft, designer Steven Sclaroff sheathed the mantelpiece in exotic python skin; firewood is elegantly displayed in a niche in the honed-travertine wall. 3 Serene gray paint and a sleek stone mantel lend a sophisticated air to a fireplace in the Florence home of Franco Mariotti and Alessandra Tabacchi, founders of Italian furnishings firm Flair. 4 A central hearth warms up the cool modernist vibe in a streamlined Stockholm apartment designed by architect Olle Rex; logs are conveniently stacked next to the chimney. 5 A fireplace surround clad in rippled panels creates textural interest in the living area of designer Eric Hughes's getaway in Wainscott, New York; the colorful abstract painting by Dan Christensen makes a bold statement. HELEN YUN

1: VICENTE WOLF; 2: TIMOTHY KOLK; 3: NATHALIE KRAG; 4: STELLAN HERNER; 5: ROGER DAVIES

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Jeffrey Alan Marks, on Ethan Allen's Chippendale side chair, and Katie Leede with seats by John Derian (left) and Roche Bobois. See Resources.

The Top 10 Dining Chairs

Truth in Decorating: Katie Leede and Jeffrey Alan Marks settle in to consider the best seating arrangements

The food you serve may be delicious, and the dinner-table conversation might sparkle, but if your chairs aren't comfortable, the meal will fall short of a four-star feast. "I look for a chair I can sit in for a good hour and a half without fidgeting," says interior designer Jeffrey Alan Marks. "That's why a wide seat and good support are critical."

Style, of course, is also key, and interior and textile designer Katie Leede recommends you pay particular attention to the back of a chair. "It's the most important part because you see it first, so it should be attractive," she explains. Openwork backs feel light and airy, while solid ones offer strength and presence. In addition, make certain the seats complement the table in terms of scale to avoid an ill-matched look. "You don't want them to dwarf the table or the room—or vice versa," Leede says. And if you choose chairs upholstered in costly yardage, consider slipcovers as a protective measure. "You can just throw the slipcovers in the wash if they get stained by food or wine," Leede notes. So sit back, settle in, and read on. ▷

Text by Mitchell Owens · Photography by Joshua McHugh · Produced by Parker Bowie and Patrick Mele

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MAYSOON FARAJ

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1 NAILHEAD UPHOLSTERED CHAIR BY RESTORATION HARDWARE
"I adore this," raves Jeffrey Alan Marks, admiring its traditional form, understated linen, and the wood's weathered finish. "The pitch of the back is great, and the arms aren't confining." With its generous width, it will work best with a large table, he says. Height: 39"; width: 23"; depth: 27"; seat height: 19"; material: oak frame in weathered-oak finish with Dacron-wrapped-foam fill, sand Belgian-linen upholstery, and antiqued-brass-nailhead trim (also available in brown-oak finish and other fabrics); delivery: 1–2 weeks; price: $399; restorationhardware.com

2 FEBO CHAIR BY ANTONIO CITTERIO FOR MAXALTO FROM B&B ITALIA
"The soft, sensual shape is inviting and a throwback to Italian designs of the 1970s," remarks Katie Leede. She also praises the stylish topstitching as well as the "unusual and striking" upholstered legs. Because of its glamorous look, she pictures a set surrounding a bronze dining table. Height: 31"; width: 19.6"; depth: 23.6"; seat height: 18.5" (other sizes available); material: upholstered steel frame with polyurethane-foam fill; delivery: 14–16 weeks; price: $1,484 c.o.m.; maxalto.it

3 WHO DINING CHAIR BY RODOLFO DORDONI FOR MOLTENI&C
"Fantastic," Marks says. "The wood and the simple silhouette recall Danish furniture. And I love the rounded rail on the back because it's easy to grab." He also appreciates the lightly padded leather seat, which is cushy enough for long meals, and says its slim frame is just right for a small antique table. Height: 33.5"; width: 17.75"; depth: 22.5"; seat height: 17.75"; material: dark-oak frame with Sinfonia chocolate-brown leather seat (also available as an armchair and in other woods and leathers); delivery: 8–10 weeks; price: $1,428; moltenidada.com

4 #455 DINING SIDE CHAIR BY A. RUDIN
"This is very versatile," Leede says. "Depending on the fabric, it can work with a variety of styles and settings." To give the clean-lined design added oomph, she would upholster it in a suzani for an exotic look. It's also the most comfortable of the group, according to Leede, so it could double as a desk chair. Height: 39"; width: 20"; depth: 26"; seat height: 20"; material: alder wood in tobacco finish with Dacron-wrapped-foam fill (custom sizes and finishes available); delivery: 10–12 weeks; price: $1,760 c.o.m.; arudin.com

5 PIANOFORTE CHAIR BY GREGORYSUNG FOR ROCHE BOBOIS
With its graceful profile and glossy lacquer finish, Marks likens this to "a chic Jean Nouvel piece of furniture—and the red stripe along the front reminds me of the crimson soles of Christian Louboutin shoes." The sleek style would work well in a sophisticated urban apartment, he points out. Height: 33.5"; width: 20"; depth: 22"; seat height: 18"; material: beech frame in glossy-black-lacquer finish with foam fill and black Softan-leather seat (other lacquer finishes and leathers available); delivery: 12–14 weeks; price: $1,350; roche-bobois.com

6 CHIPPENDALE SIDE CHAIR BY ETHAN ALLEN
"The tall back is terrific because it's executed in a playful, easygoing way," Leede says. "The scale is exaggerated, but the ornate motif isn't fussy." She also lauds the black finish, which "lends drama," especially in a gallery-like white interior. Height: 40"; width: 21"; depth: 22.5"; seat height: 19.5"; material: birch-and-poplar frame in antique-black finish with foam fill and black Keats upholstery (also available in Southport antique finish and other fabrics); delivery: 4 weeks; price: $349; ethanallen.com

7 NAKASHIMA STRAIGHT BACKED CHAIR FROM DESIGN WITHIN REACH
"A design classic and very well made," Marks observes, citing its sculptural curves and the contoured-for-comfort seat. The walnut and hickory will also acquire a beautiful patina and are extremely durable, he says, "so it's great for kids." Marks envisions it with a glass table so "the chair is the star." Height: 30"; width: 22.5"; depth: 17.5"; seat height: 17"; material: solid-walnut frame with solid-hickory spindles; delivery: 10 days; price: $634; dwr.com

8 LEAF CHAIR BY JOHN DERIAN
"Charming and incredibly comfortable," Leede raves. "It recalls a traditional English scroll-back chair, but it's sturdier and plusher than an antique." Another selling point: the "lean and elegant" turned legs, whose casters provide "mobility and an old-world vibe." With its compact proportions, she sees it in a small space. Height: 31.5"; width: 18"; depth: 23"; seat height: 19"; material: maple frame in dark-cherry-stain finish with soy-based-foam fill; delivery: 8–10 weeks; price: $1,875 c.o.m.; johnderian.com

9 BELLA SIDE CHAIR BY TROSCAN DESIGN FROM HOLLY HUNT
"Even though the seat has no cushioning, it's comfortable enough to sit in for hours," marvels Marks. And with a leather-covered back, it's handsome from behind, he says. Because of its slightly rustic vibe, Marks visualizes it in a country house, but would opt for brightly colored upholstery to offset the wood. Height: 30.5"; width: 19.75"; depth: 21.75"; seat height: 18.25"; material: claro-walnut frame in natural finish with oxblood leather seat and back (also available as an armchair and in other woods, finishes, and leathers); delivery: 10 weeks; price: $1,988; hollyhunt.com

10 MARIE SIDE CHAIR BY ROOM & BOARD
Leede finds this frill-free chair thoroughly practical, but suggests adding a white canvas or linen slipcover: "It would soften the boxy lines and legs but still keep it very tailored and fresh, like a piece by Christian Liaigre." The chair also happens to be "a fantastic value," she says. Height: 34"; width: 21"; depth: 25"; seat height: 21"; material: maple frame in ebony-stain finish with Dacron-wrapped-foam fill and black leather upholstery (also available as an armchair and in other finishes and fabrics); delivery: 10–14 days; price: $429; roomandboard.com

The opinions featured are those of ELLE DECOR's guest experts and do not necessarily represent those of the editors. All measurements, delivery times, and prices are approximate. For details see Resources.

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HAPPENINGS

FIND OUT ABOUT ALL ELLE DECOR EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS ONLINE AT elledecor.com

From left: Amy Mellen, creative director, Calvin Klein Home; Tom Murry, CEO, Calvin Klein; and Paulette Cole, CEO, ABC Carpet & Home.

CALVIN KLEIN HOME

NEW YORK CITY

Boldface names of fashion and design turned out for the October 1 opening of the Calvin Klein Home shop at ABC Carpet & Home. ELLE DECOR editor in chief Margaret Russell hosted the star-studded event, which debuted Calvin Klein Home's ultrachic Curator Collection of furniture in a signature setting.

FORT STREET STUDIO

On November 11, Fort Street Studio held a "Glimmering Evening" to debut its special-edition Glimmering carpets. The addition of a higher knot count and the difficult soumak weaving of metallic threads elevates these designs to true luxury. For more information, visit fortstreetstudio.com.

FINE LIVING NETWORK

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RENAISSANCE HOTELS

BOUTIQUE HOTELS AND RESORTS FOR STYLISH TRAVELERS

Indie rocker Santigold enjoyed the rooftop view before performing at the opening celebration for the Renaissance Paris Arc de Triomphe hotel. Check out the chic new Renaissance property at renaissancehotels.com.

THE BUZZ

THE 2010 BLOOMINGDALE'S BIG WINDOW CHALLENGE

JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 1

ELLE DECOR has partnered with Bloomingdale's and ApartmentTherapy.com for the Big Window Challenge, with today's tastemakers squaring off in the name of charity. ELLE DECOR has enlisted interiors expert, lifestyle blogger, and *Top Design* Season 2 contestant, Eddie Ross to create a window setting that will compete against windows designed by Bloomingdale's in-house decorating team and Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan from ApartmentTherapy.com. Each vignette will showcase furnishings from Bloomingdale's celebrated fifth-floor home department and incorporate items from the store's new furniture collection, Hudson Park.

For more information, visit elledecor.com/happenings.

The designer of ELLE DECOR*'s window, Eddie Ross.*

CALVIN KLEIN HOME: ©2009 PATRICK McMULLAN

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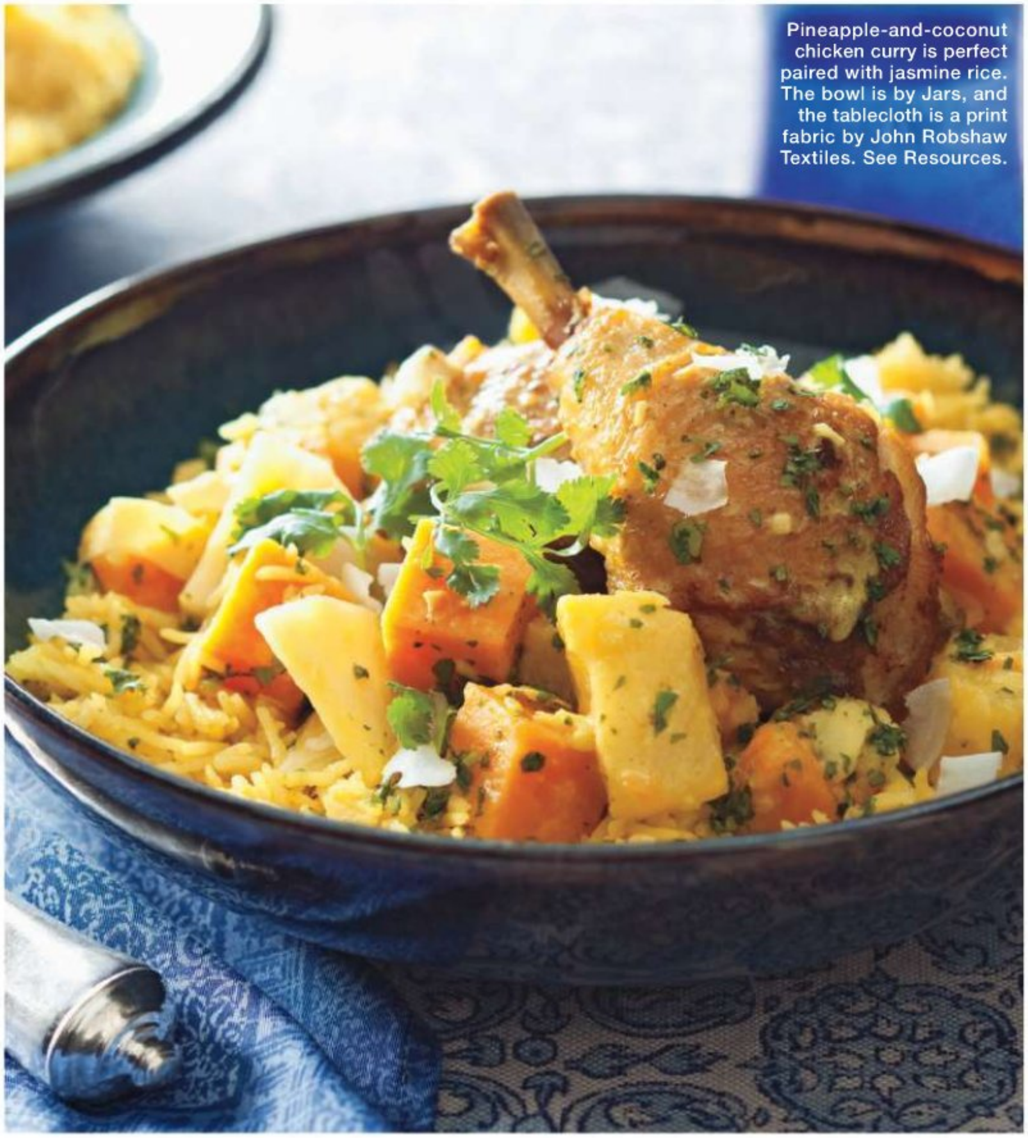

KATE SEARS/SUBLIME MANAGEMENT; STYLED BY ANITA SARSIDI; FOOD PREPARATION BY AJ SCHALLER

Exotic Accent

Classic chicken curry gets a contemporary update with a soupçon of extra spices, sweet potatoes, and tart pineapple
By Daniel Boulud

There are all kinds of curry—green, red, panang, to name a few—and places like the Caribbean, West Africa, and the Far East have developed their own particular versions. But in terms of French and American food, until recently the word *curry* referred to only one type—Indian or Madras curry, a yellow powdered spice made of a blend of turmeric, coriander, and ginger and often infused with hot peppers. Widely used in Africa as well as the United Kingdom, it was first incorporated into French cooking in the late 19th century.

My pineapple-and-coconut chicken curry evokes the classic curry dishes served in French and American households back in the 1950s and '60s, but it is more complex and richer in flavor because of extra ginger, turmeric, and cayenne pepper. The chicken is browned in the fragrant spices and then braised in a sauce that is both sweet and tart thanks to the addition of a cinnamon stick, fresh pineapple—which gives it a sharp edge—and creamy coconut milk. Sweet potatoes or yams are simmered with the chicken, becoming infused with flavor. ▷

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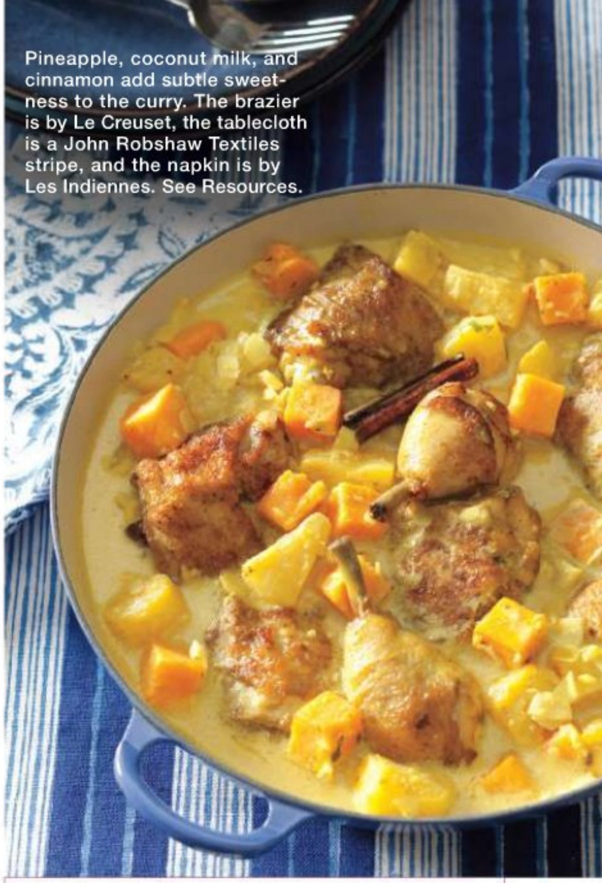
daniel's dish



Pineapple, coconut milk, and cinnamon add subtle sweetness to the curry. The brazier is by Le Creuset, the tablecloth is a John Robshaw Textiles stripe, and the napkin is by Les Indiennes. See Resources.

This is an easy, delicious one-pot meal that is both hearty and exotic. I like to serve it with curried jasmine rice, which reiterates the taste and soaks up the wonderful sauce. You can even cook the chicken ahead of time and keep it warm, which makes it ideal for a casual supper or weekend brunch, allowing you to relax and enjoy your guests. It is a timeless curry dish, and all the more comforting for that.

PINEAPPLE-AND-COCONUT CHICKEN CURRY

Serves 4

Chicken curry

1½ T Madras curry powder
1 tsp. turmeric
1½ tsp. cayenne pepper
1 tsp. ground ginger
4 large chicken legs, skin on, legs and thighs separated
4 T olive oil
1 pineapple, peeled, cored, and cut into 1-inch cubes
4 cloves garlic (germs removed), finely chopped
½ cup coconut flakes
½ cup pineapple juice
2 cans (13.5 oz. each) coconut milk
1 cup low-sodium chicken stock or broth
1 cinnamon stick, 3 inches long
4 medium sweet potatoes or yams (about 2 lb.), peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
1 bunch cilantro, leaves only, roughly chopped
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Combine the spices in a small bowl. In a shallow container, coat the chicken with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil and half the spices, and salt and pepper to taste. Marinate, covered or in a Ziploc bag, for 2 hours, chilled. Preheat oven to 325°F. Warm the remaining olive oil in a large oven-safe pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the legs and thighs to the pan in a single layer (you may need to do this in batches) and brown on both sides, allowing the spices to toast and become fragrant; remove and set aside. Sauté the pineapple, garlic, and ⅔ of the coconut flakes, stirring, until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Add the pineapple juice, coconut milk, chicken stock, cinnamon stick, remaining spices, and sweet potatoes; stir to combine. Arrange the chicken evenly on top. Bring to a simmer, then transfer to the oven, uncovered. Braise for 45 minutes, basting the chicken twice. Remove the cinnamon stick and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper, if necessary. Serve on top of curried rice, garnishing with reserved coconut flakes and cilantro.

What to Drink

This aromatic and intensely flavorful dish requires "a wine of equal pungency and flavor to complement it," says Daniel Johnes, wine director of Daniel restaurants. "And because the curry has sweetness from the pineapple and coconut, it needs something with a hint of fruitiness." He recommends a Vouvray demi-sec 2005 from Philippe Foreau ($36) in the Loire Valley. "It has the right texture to pair wonderfully with the creamy chicken," Johnes explains. "Its balance of sweetness will cool any heat emanating from the curry, plus its acidity will leave the palate refreshed." A good alternate, he says, would be a German Riesling, known for its powerful aroma; he suggests a Kabinett Jean-Baptiste 2007 from Gunderloch ($19).

Curried rice

1 cup jasmine rice
1½ cups water
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. Madras curry powder

Wash rice several times in cold water, until water is clear, then drain in a sieve. Pour water, salt, and curry powder into a 1½- to 2-quart saucepan and add rice. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and cook, covered, until rice is tender and water is absorbed, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand, covered, for 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork. ■

KATE SEARS/SUBLIME MANAGEMENT; STYLED BY ANITA SARSIDI

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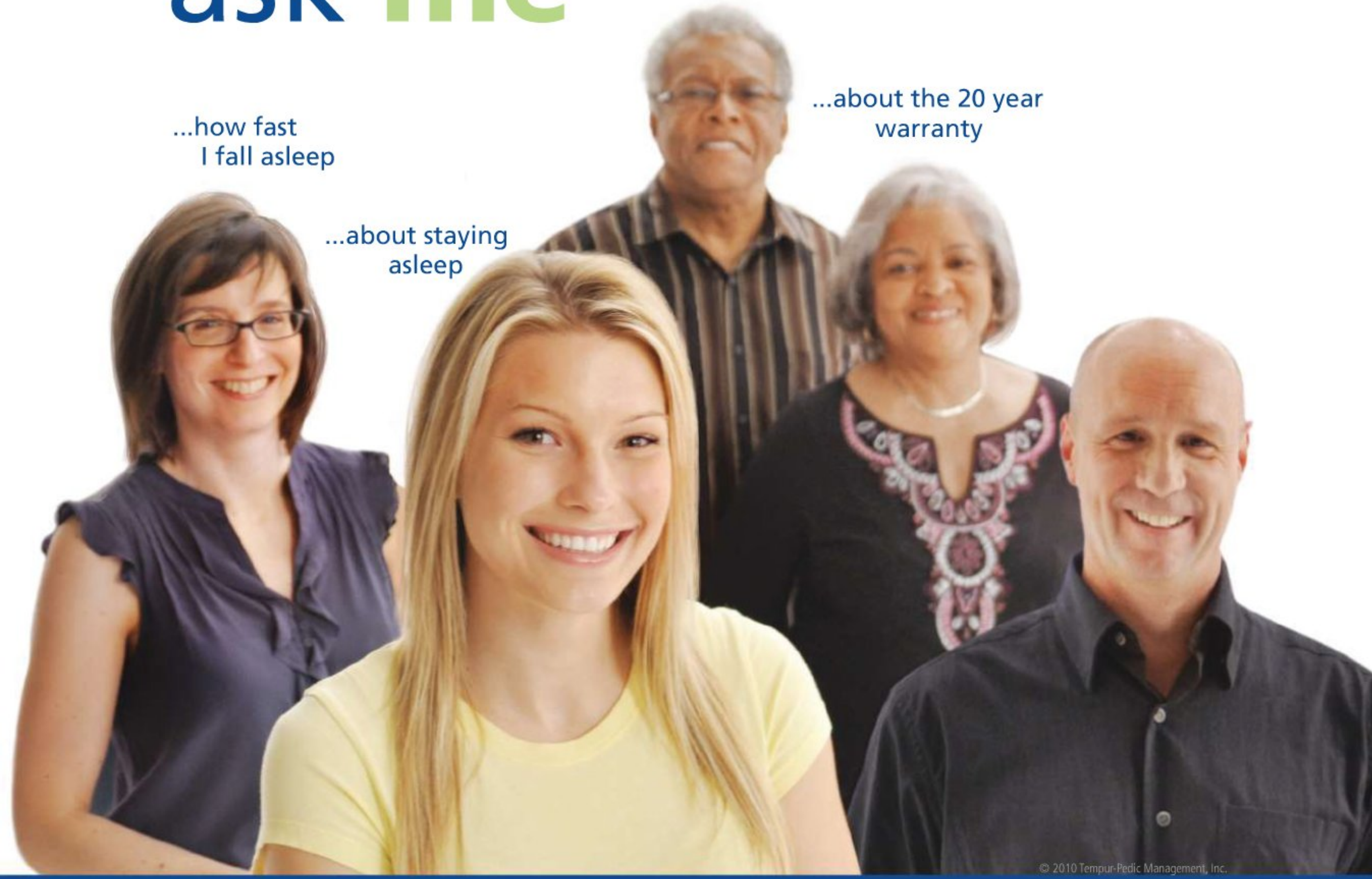

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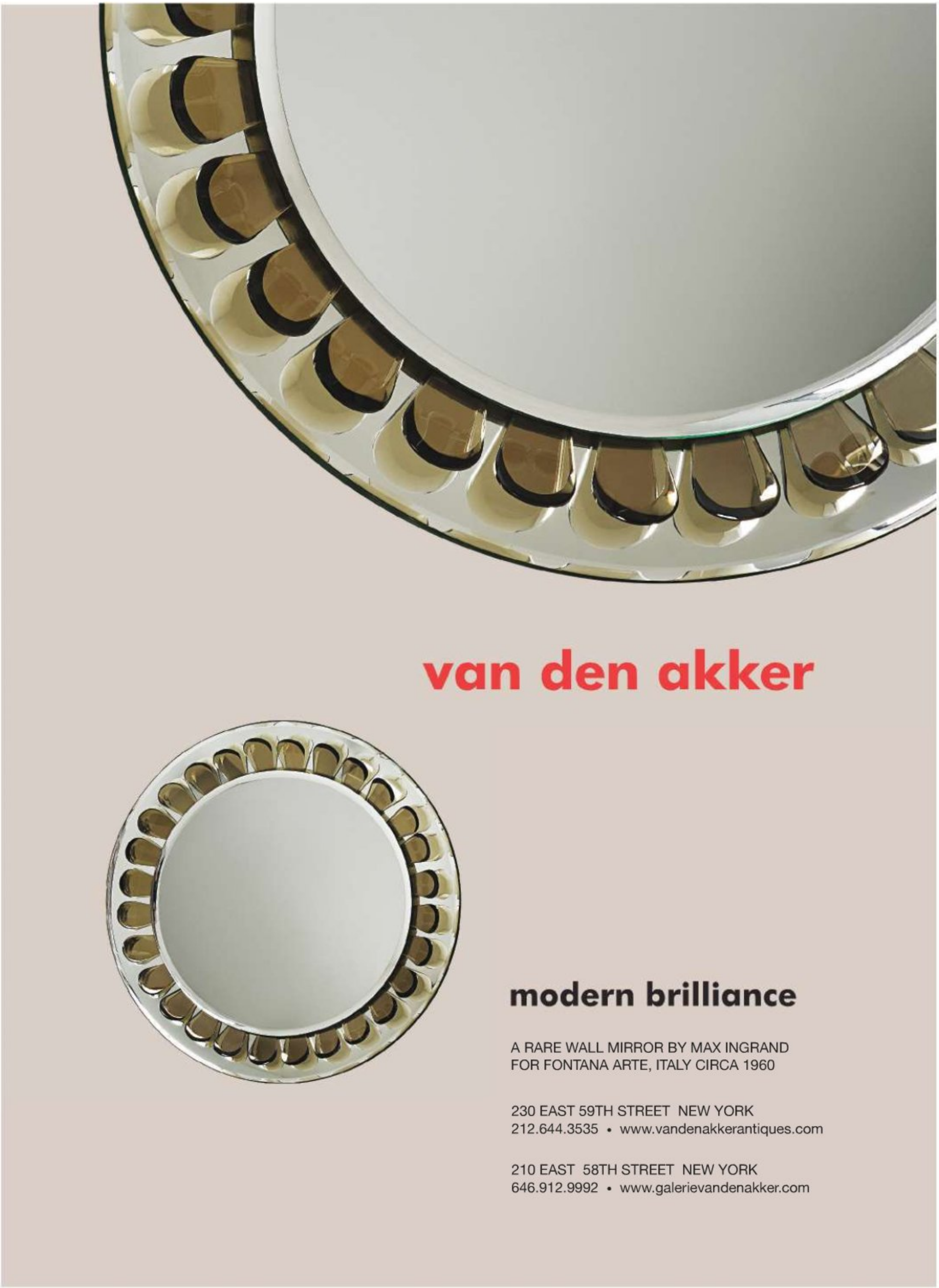

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TOOLBOX

Starting over—or just refining what you've got? ELLE DECOR's renovation style guide offers inspiring ideas and terrific products that will improve any room in the house

AWASH IN STYLE

Ann Sacks introduces its first-ever bath accessories collection with ten sophisticated styles crafted in a range of materials from casual to luxe—handblown glass, gold leaf, recycled bronze, wood, marble, resin, ceramic, and shagreen. The chic Irvington line, shown, is sheathed in black or cream shagreen trimmed with bone and includes a tray ($614), canister ($594), tissue cover ($854), and wastebasket ($1,154). Call 800-ART-TILE; annsacks.com. ▷

JOSHUA MCHUGH

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toolbox

SMALL WONDER

Billed as the most powerful handheld vacuum on the market, Dyson's new battery-operated DC31 can run up to ten minutes without losing suction strength. The three-pound device costs $220 and is half the size of previous models, thanks to its small but speedy digital motor. Call 866-693-9766; dyson.com.

FANTASY ISLAND

The Lignum et Lapis kitchen by Antonio Citterio for Arclinea boasts a sleek wood-and-marble island and stainless-steel overhead shelving unit with an LED lighting system and food warmer. Price available upon request; arclinea.it.

DRY GOODS

Shaw Floors' Cosmopolitan collection is made of engineered maple that repels moisture and, unlike hardwood, is suitable for humid areas such as bathrooms. The glossy 5"-wide planks are scuff-resistant and hand-scraped for an aged look. They are available in black or white at $13 per square foot. Call 800-441-7429; shawfloors.com.

TAPPED IN

Franke's professional-style FFPD100 faucet features a handy pull-down spray spout and elegant square handles and base. It comes in chrome ($2,150), shown, and satin nickel ($2,000). Call 800-626-5771; frankeconsumerproducts.com.

HEAT OF THE MOMENT

Part of its new Commercial-Style cooking line, KitchenAid's 48" restaurant-grade range is the industry's only double-oven design with steam-assisted convection technology to keep food moist. It's offered in a stainless-steel finish with a chrome griddle and costs $9,499. Call 800-422-1230; kitchenaid.com.

SURFACE DETAIL

Inspired by Mediterranean architecture, the lead-free handmade Ravenna pewter tiles from Metal Focus Tile's Byzantium line are ideal for backsplashes, countertops, and more. They measure 2" square and come in aged brass ($13 per tile) and silver ($7) finishes, both shown, as well as pewter ($8). Call 323-728-8672; metalfocustile.com.

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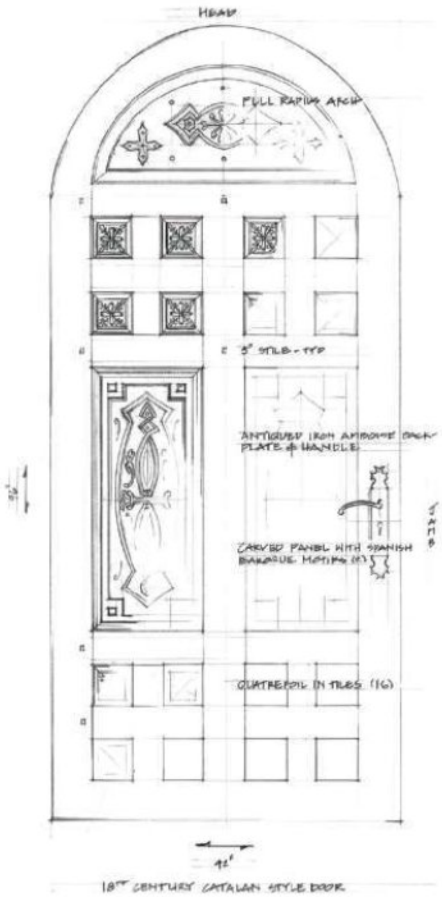

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Birmingham

Forged from an unlikely mix of Anglo influence and industrial might, Alabama's largest city is in

Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Call it a city of Anglophiles, if you will. Streets named Canterbury, Cambridge, and Balmoral wind through neighborhoods of classic Tudors with lattice-paned windows and steeply pitched roofs. Lawns are manicured and edged with neatly trimmed boxwood hedges. In the villages that border the downtown area, antiques stores seem to spring up around every corner. The trial of the controversial, thoroughly entertaining, and recently convicted former mayor, who talked of reincarnating Trafalgar Square downtown, forced citizens to adopt yet something else from the Brits—a dry sense of humor.

The name itself, taken from a flourishing city across the pond, Birmingham, England, during the Industrial Age, is a fitting moniker. In the late 1800s, the three raw materials needed to produce steel—coal, iron ore, and limestone—were discovered in and began being extracted from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, a phenomenon that transformed what had been a cornfield into the South's booming industrial epicenter: Birmingham, Alabama. In fact, at the turn of the century, steel and iron production generated such an explosion in population and wealth—think Silicon Valley in the 1990s—that the town garnered the nickname the Magic City.

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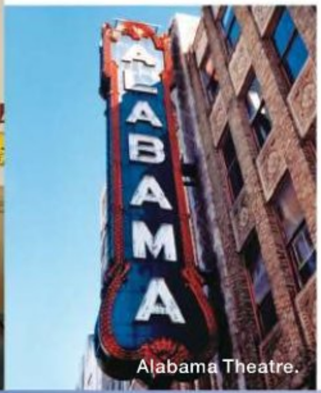
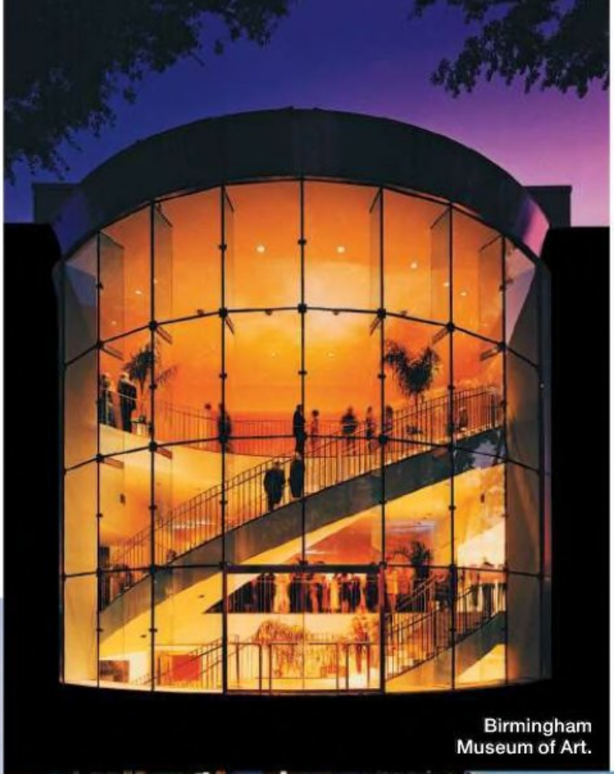
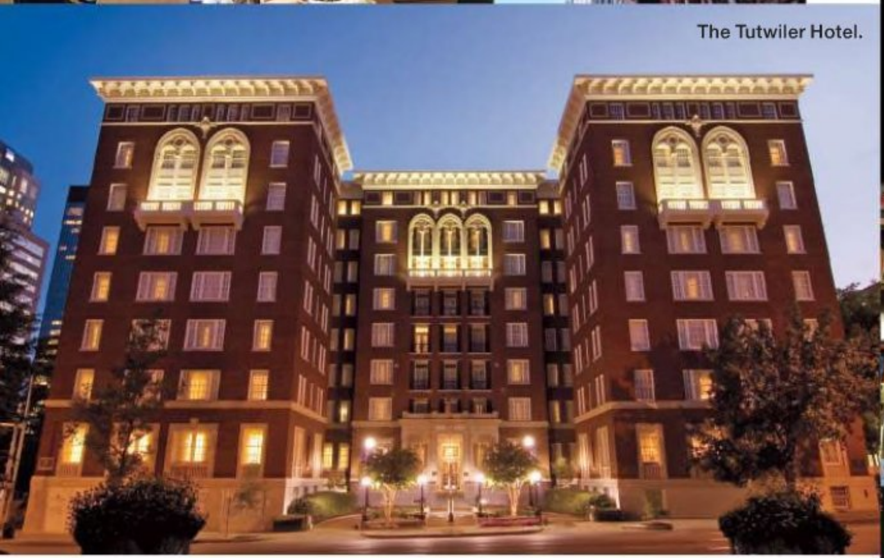
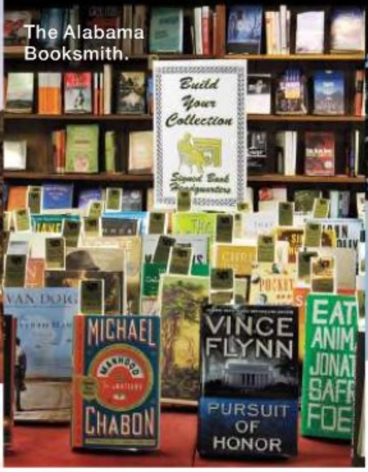
Saw's BBQ.



Alabama Theatre.


Birmingham Museum of Art.


The Tutwiler Hotel.



The Alabama Booksmith.

The Vulcan statue.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HOWARD LEE PUCKETT; © JEFFREY BLACKLER/ALAMY; COURTESY OF THE BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM OF ART; HOWARD LEE PUCKETT (2); ENRICH MEDIA

the midst of a downtown revival, even as it retains its small-town Southern charms. By Beaty Coleman

As the iron and steel trades prospered and subsequently mellowed over the past 120 years, the once-smokestacked landscape (which earned Birmingham a far less attractive nickname: Pittsburgh of the South) gradually morphed into high rises filled with bankers, lawyers, and doctors. And, more recently, vacant 1920s buildings have been converted into lofts, accommodating professors and medical students at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), the enormous engine—college, research center, and teaching hospital all in one—that occupies 86 city blocks and drives the economy.

"Right now all the seeds planted by so many progressive people over the past 20 years are coming to fruition," says downtown advocate and developer Robert Simon. The new loft dwellers have upped the hip factor, reviving the café and restaurant scene, so now it's easy to partake of both lively nightlife and early-morning cappuccinos. In addition to the mainstays that Birmingham's enormously wealthy families have bequeathed to the city, including a world-class art museum and a top-notch music and entertainment facility, the Alys Robinson Stephens Center, the redeveloped areas are drawing residents of the surrounding suburbs downtown on a daily basis—something virtually unheard of in the '80s. The city's north side, around Third Avenue North, bursts with industrial spaces that have been converted into stores and restaurants. Lakeview, to the east, is studded with watering holes for thirtysomethings and young professionals; the old Dr. Pepper factory there has become a destination for design enthusiasts, with stalls and shops offering antiques and furnishings, architectural firms, plus a community theater. In a town where antiques stores thrive, dealer Robert Hill's converted industrial space nearby stands out as one of the best, divided into a series of vignettes filled with religious artifacts, tapestries, and furnishings from all over Europe. "If you're looking for something in Birmingham you can find it, whether in my store or another," Hill explains. "We're all friends and we know who has what—we'll send you to the right place."

Downtown properties that fell into decay in the '70s and '80s are finding all kinds of innovative new uses. The biggest surprise is a block-long community garden, Jones Valley Urban Farm, that grows and sells organic produce and flowers to local groceries, farmers' markets, and restaurants. "They've helped the community understand the importance of knowing where your food is (text continues on page 60) ▷

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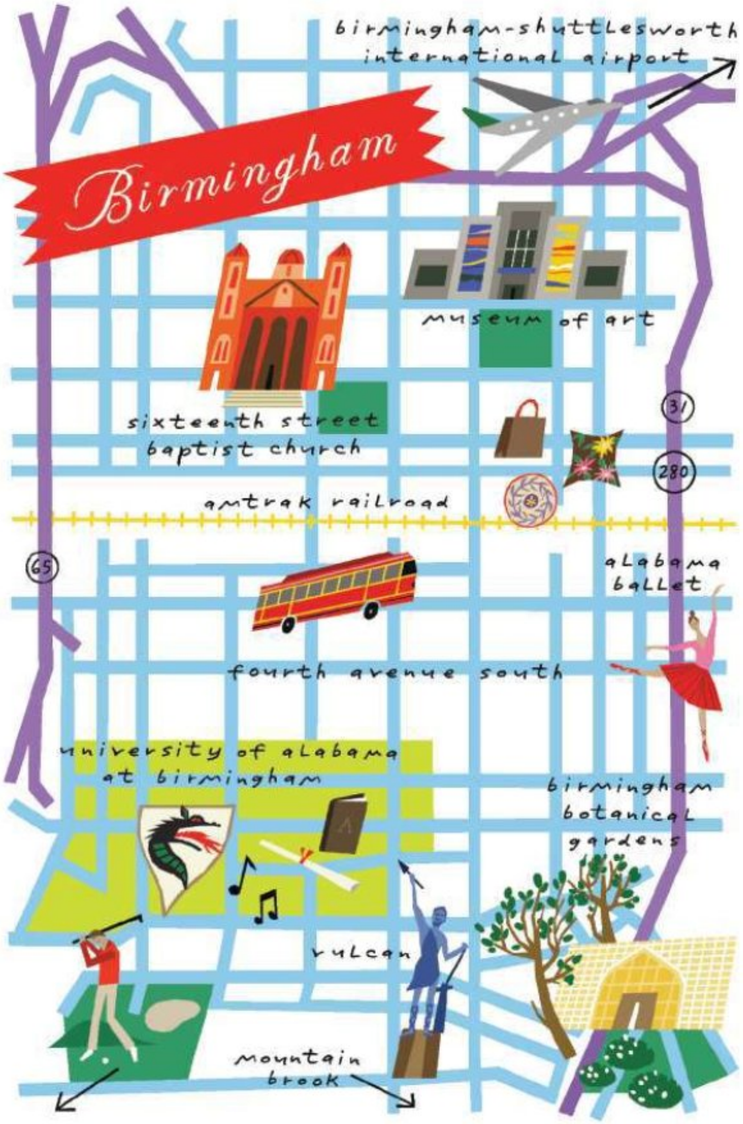

Essential Birmingham

The area code is 205.

Explore Mountain Brook. Four charming villages—English, Mountain Brook, Cahaba, and Crestline—make up this bucolic enclave southeast of downtown.

Hike it or bike it. Follow the creeks along Jemison Trail or escape to the nearby Oak or Ruffner Mountains for miles of wooded trails. A guided tour of the old railway tracks that circle Red Mountain (redmountainpark.org) might yield a mining relic or two.

Make your trip ironclad. Visit the largest cast-iron statue in the world, Vulcan (visitvulcan.com), the Roman god of the forge, a symbol of the city's industrial past, or tour Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark (slossfurnaces.com), where iron was produced for nearly 90 years.

Indulge in barbecue. You'll have to eat your way through more than 80 spots—including stalwarts Miss Myra's (967-6004) and Full Moon (fullmoonbbq.com) as well as newcomers Moe's (moesoriginalbbq.com) and Saw's (sawsbbq.com)—to decide the best.

What to See

Alabama Ballet, alabamaballet.org: One of the South's best companies, with repertory from the classical to the contemporary.

Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center, **1200 Tenth Ave. S., 975-ARTS**; alysstephens.org: Its four venues, including Jemison Concert Hall, an acoustical marvel, are the place for music—classical, jazz, and pop.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, **2612 Lane Park Rd., 414-3950**; bbgardens.org: Stop to smell the roses at the Dunn Formal Rose Garden; mark your calendar for the "Glorious Gardens" Mother's Day weekend tour of the city's finest private gardens.

Birmingham Museum of Art, **2000 Reverend Abraham Woods Jr. Blvd., 254-2565**; artsbma.org: Standout collections include French furniture and the largest array of Wedgwood china outside of England.

Jones Valley Urban Farm, **701 25th St. N., 322-0542**; jvuf.org: A downtown block converted into a community garden and farm that provides organic produce to area green markets, restaurants, and stores.

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, **1530 Sixth Ave. N., 251-9402**; 16thstreetbaptist.org and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, **520 16th St. N., 328-9696**; bcri.org: Attend a service at the historic church, site of the tragic 1963 bombing; then tour the Institute across the street to immerse yourself in the struggle for equal rights.

Where to Stay

Aloft, **1903 29th Ave. S., 874-8055**; alofthotels.com: This chic new retreat near Soho Square in Homewood offers 111 well-appointed rooms and the popular W XYZ Bar in the lobby. Across the street, sample great sushi at Jinsei (1830 29th Ave. S., 802-1440; jinseisushi.com).

The Redmont Hotel, **2101 Fifth Ave. N., 324-2101**; theredmont.com: Its landmark sign lights up the skyline, it has 114 guest rooms and suites, and its new rooftop bar has become a see-and-be-scene spot for locals.

The Tutwiler Hotel, **2021 Park Place, 322-2100**; thetutwilerhotel.com: This historic downtown icon opened in 1914, and each of its 149 rooms was completely redone two years ago.

Where to Eat

Bottega Restaurant and Café, **2240 Highland Ave. S., 939-1000**; bottegarestaurant.com: Chef Frank Stitt merges a penchant for Italian (try the café's roasted-pepper-and-tomato-chutney pizza) with his Southern heritage.

Bottle Tree, **3719 Third Ave. S., 533-6288**; thebottletree.com: The only excuse for passing on a PBR tallboy ($3) is their ginger margarita. Soups, salads, tacos, and some of the best live music in town.

Café Dupont, **113 20th St. N., 322-1282**; cafedupont.net: Fresh foods, mostly organic, served in an 1870s storefront. The winter menu boasts cassoulet and short ribs.

The Garage Café, **2304 Tenth Terrace S., 322-3220**; garagecafe.us: Enjoy sandwiches and ales amid an eclectic assortment of antiques.

GianMarco's, **721 Broadway St., 871-9622**: This Italian restaurant on a quiet residential street is a neighborhood favorite for its seafood specials.

Gilchrist Drug, **2805 Cahaba Rd., 871-2181**: The ladies who lunch come for the BLTs; after school, kids on bikes pull up for the old-fashioned soda fountain. Birmingham native Courteney Cox orders the tuna-egg-salad sandwich with a limeade.

Highlands Bar and Grill, **2011 11th Ave. S., 939-1400**; highlandsbarandgrill.com: Frank Stitt's first restaurant put Birmingham on the culinary map by transforming humble Southern ingredients—baked grits and bitter greens—into haute cuisine.

Hot and Hot Fish Club, **2180 11th Ct. S., 933-5474**; hotandhotfishclub.com: Sit at the chef's counter to watch Chris Hastings deftly navigate the kitchen, creating his signature South Carolina low country–inspired cooking.

Niki's West, **233 Finley Ave. W., 252-5751**; nikiswest.com: Meat and three (Southern slang for meat and three sides) served cafeteria style has lured lawyers and bankers since 1957.

Rojo, **2921 Highland Ave. S., 328-4733**; rojobirmingham.com: Place your order (ideally fish tacos) at the counter, take a number, then find a seat.

Urban Standard, **2320 Second Ave. N., 250-8200**; urbanstandard.net: A sophisticated café where UAB students mix with movers and shakers.

Where to Shop

The Alabama Booksmith, **2626 19th Pl. S., 870-4242**; alabamabooksmith.com: An unpretentious sanctuary with its own Signed First Editions club.

A'Mano, **2707 Culver Rd., 871-9093**; amanogifts.com: Quirky handmade artworks, many by locals.

AMW, **1829 29th Ave. S., 870-3588**: Estate jewelry and sterling silver plus vintage and contemporary photography tucked into an old antiques store.

Ashford Hill for Henhouse Antiques, **1900 Cahaba Rd., 918-0505**; shophenhouseantiques.com: Primitive pieces juxtaposed with fine antiques.

Circa Interiors and Antiques, **2831 Culver Rd., 868-9199**; circaonline.net: New furniture and fabrics mixed with 18th- and 19th-century furnishings.

Mary Evelyn, **2815A 18th St. S., 879-7544**; maryevelyn.com: Elegant furnishings and works of art selected by designer Mary Evelyn McKee.

Peanut Depot, **2016 Morris Ave., 251-3314**; peanutdepot.com: Supplying roasted, salted, Cajun, and raw peanuts for more than 100 years.

Pepper Place, **29th St. S. at Second Ave. S., 802-2100**; pepperplace.com: A former Dr. Pepper factory is now a mecca for interior-design fans, with home-furnishings shops, antiques, rug dealers, and more.

Robert Hill Antiques, **3029 Third Ave. S., 326-0088**; roberthillantiques.com: Exquisite Continental antiques, formal and ecclesiastical—a favorite among the city's design cognoscenti.

Theadora, **2821 18th St. S., 879-0335**; theadora.com: Edgy women's apparel with timeless appeal.

Tricia's Treasures, **2700 19th Pl. S., 871-9779**: Prepare to spend hours sifting through this huge warehouse chock-full of everything from sterling silver to old door frames and shutters.

LENA CORWIN

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Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

harvested," says chef Chris Dupont, whose popular Café Dupont is celebrated for its seasonal and largely organic cuisine.

The rage for local ingredients that's sweeping the city's restaurants began with James Beard award–winning chef Frank Stitt and his Highlands Bar and Grill, which he opened in the '80s. In a city previously—and still—known mostly for its barbecue joints, Highlands became an immediate hit. He elevates the bounty of Alabama farmers—Swiss chard and turnips in the winter and peaches and butter beans in the summer—to haute cuisine. New York–based sports journalist, author, and Birmingham native Warren St. John is a fan. "I go straight from the airport to the oyster bar at Highlands—I've even called and asked them not to send the oyster shucker home until I get there," he says. "You feel like you're eating at a quintessentially Southern place—you can't get that in New York."

Stitt's three establishments (he opened Bottega Restaurant and Café, an Italian favorite, in 1988, and Chez Fonfon, a casual French bistro next door to Highlands, in 2000) have the most coveted tables in town. He attributes much of his success to the willingness of the locals to try new things. "I can sell out of sweetbreads and veal liver, things other Southern markets wouldn't even offer," he says.

While the retail and dining scenes downtown have undergone a resurgence, bad politics have played a part in substandard schools, crime, and a steady decline in the population of the city. Many readers of the local paper will admit sheepishly that the recent trial of Mayor Larry Langford for bribery, fraud, and money laundering provided riveting entertainment, but this distraction and the current economic struggles—several banks headquartered in Birmingham have suffered—are slowing redevelopment. Yet Robert Simon validates the thoughts of many: "We are bullish about the long-term prospects of our city."

Nonetheless, the region's more affluent citizens are likely to choose to live "over the mountain" (the term refers to Red Mountain, a peak that borders the city to the south) in the surrounding metropolitan areas, including Vestavia Hills, Hoover, and Homewood.

Mountain Brook is perhaps the most sought-after address. As its name suggests, this town capitalizes on the hilly terrain that stands in stark contrast to the mostly flat topography ▷

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WOMEN IN DESIGN

IT WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY AT ELLE DECOR'S WOMEN IN DESIGN AWARDS, HELD AT THE TIMES CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 26. THE HONOREES WERE FIVE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED FEMALE DESIGN TALENTS: HOLLY HUNT, JOSIE NATORI, MICHELLE NUSSBAUMER, KELLY WEARSTLER, AND CHARLOTTE MOSS, RECIPIENT OF THE MAGAZINE'S VISION AWARD. THE EVENING'S MAIN EVENT WAS A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT WORK, AESTHETICS, AND THE CONTINUING CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE DESIGN WORLD

^ Charlotte Moss, ELLE DECOR's Vision Award recipient.

^ From left: Emily Bolls, Ann Sacks Tile & Stone; Carrie Perkins, Kallista; and Jamie Kwiat, Kohler.

^ From left: Designer Brett Beldock, and Fabio Valentino Perez of Oly.

^ From left: Connie Berry, Karastan; and Amy Johnson and Kelli Rathke of Cramer-Krasselt.

^ From left: Panelists Kelly Wearstler, Michelle Nussbaumer, and Charlotte Moss; moderator Margaret Russell, editor in chief, ELLE DECOR; and panelist Holly Hunt.

^ From left: Cara McCarty, Caroline Baumann, and Sophia Amaro of Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

^ Aaron Stewart of Sferra, and designer Kelly Wearstler.

FROM FABULOUS FURNITURE TO PLUSH FABRICS TO ARTFUL TILES, PRODUCTS BY THESE TRENDSETTING COMPANIES WERE PART OF THE AWARDS EVENING AS WELL, DISPLAYED IN STYLISH VIGNETTES THROUGHOUT THE TIMES CENTER.

> Oly's Elisabeth cabinet stocked with Kelly Wearstler for Sferra products; the Mystical Zebra rug is from Karastan's Exotics collection.

^ Kallista display.

^ Ann Sacks Tile & Stone display.

^ Kelly Wearstler for Sferra pillows on Zoe chair and Noah sofa by Oly.

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For more information and event highlights, visit elledecor.com/womenindesign

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ANN SACKS KALLISTA Karastan OLY SFERRA

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Robert Hill Antiques.

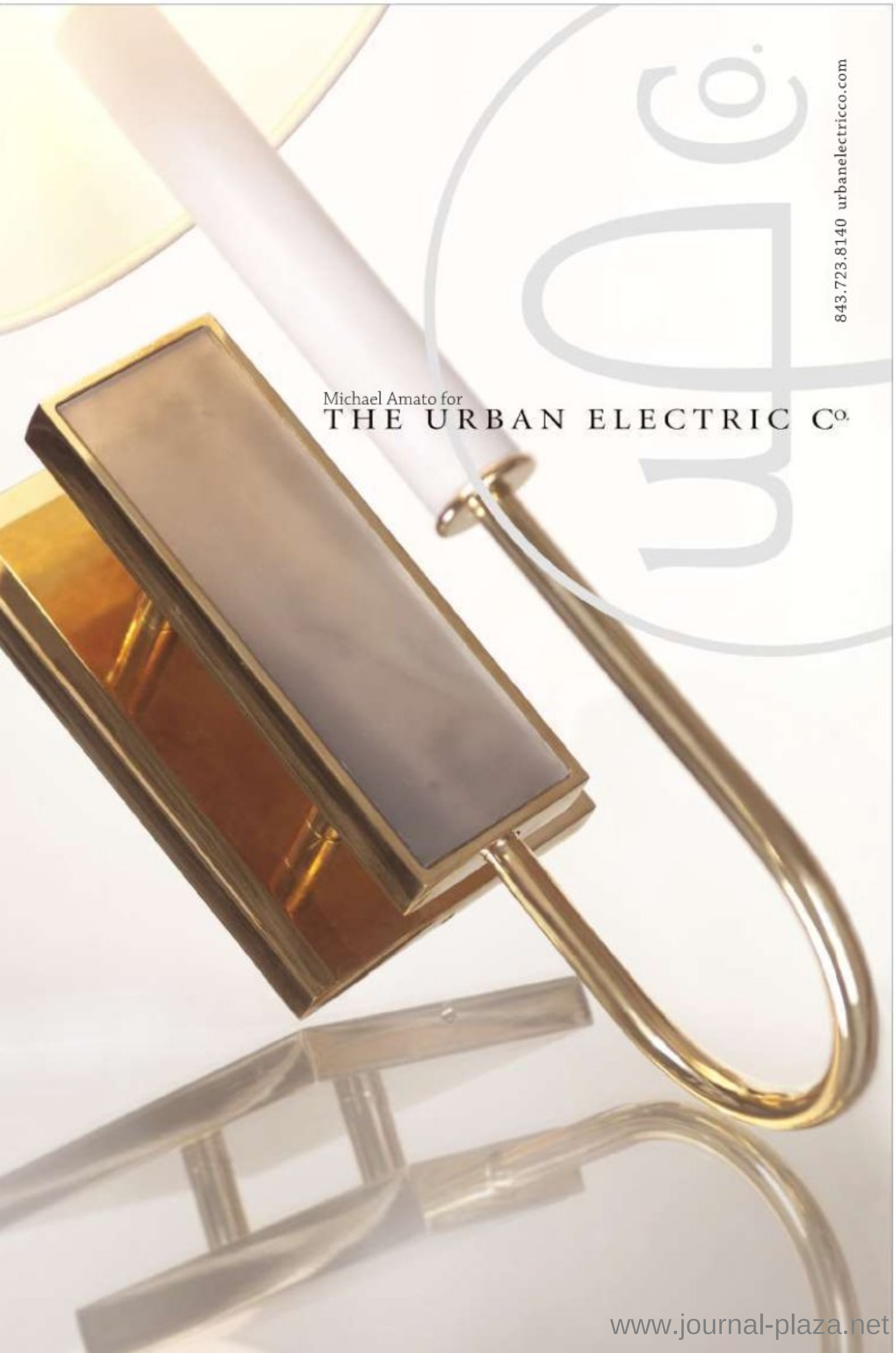
of the rest of the state. Conceived in 1929 by Robert Jemison Jr. as a collection of country estates for wealthy downtowners who felt confined on small city lots, Mountain Brook was designed to preserve the woodlands while providing such leisure pursuits as horseback riding, tennis, golf, and gardening—and the two thriving private country clubs still here attest to Jemison's success.

Long and winding roads weave through neighborhoods connected by four tiny pedestrian-friendly villages—English, Mountain Brook, Cahaba, and Crestline—with markets, boutiques, and restaurants so accommodating some citizens rarely venture beyond a two-mile radius of home. Children can walk to public schools and order sodas from a real old-fashioned fountain at Gilchrist Drug, a lunch spot that's one of the original businesses in Mountain Brook village. "It's a lifestyle that celebrates the natural union of house and garden so indigenous to the South," says local designer Mary Evelyn McKee.

"Brookies," as they are called, can credit their sanctuary to Warren H. Manning, a disciple of Frederick Law Olmsted, who is considered the founder of American landscape architecture. Commissioned by Jemison to help plan the community's layout, Manning merged Tudor architectural influences with meandering roads to encourage inhabitants to drive slowly and take in the cultivated landscape. "I keep a convertible in Birmingham to enjoy the scenery," St. John says. "One minute you can be in the heart of downtown and 15 minutes later be driving through lush, rolling hills."

Even as Birmingham has grown, the impact of the mountains on the city has remained profound, from the minerals that enriched the families who for decades have sustained a diversity of culture you'd expect in a much larger town, to the terrain that has precluded the kind of urban sprawl which has spoiled too many other cities. One permanent reminder of their influence is a fixture in the skyline atop Red Mountain. *Vulcan*—depicting the Roman god of fire and forge, and at 56 feet the tallest cast-iron statue in the world—was commissioned in 1903 as an emblem of Birmingham's growth and power for the St. Louis World's Fair. Today, though some residents are oblivious to the immensity of steel's impact and simply take lighthearted pleasure in Vulcan's bare rump exposed to passersby on the Red Mountain Expressway, there are many more who recognize his hammer and anvil as proud symbols of the foundation of the city. ■

HOWARD LEE PUCKETT



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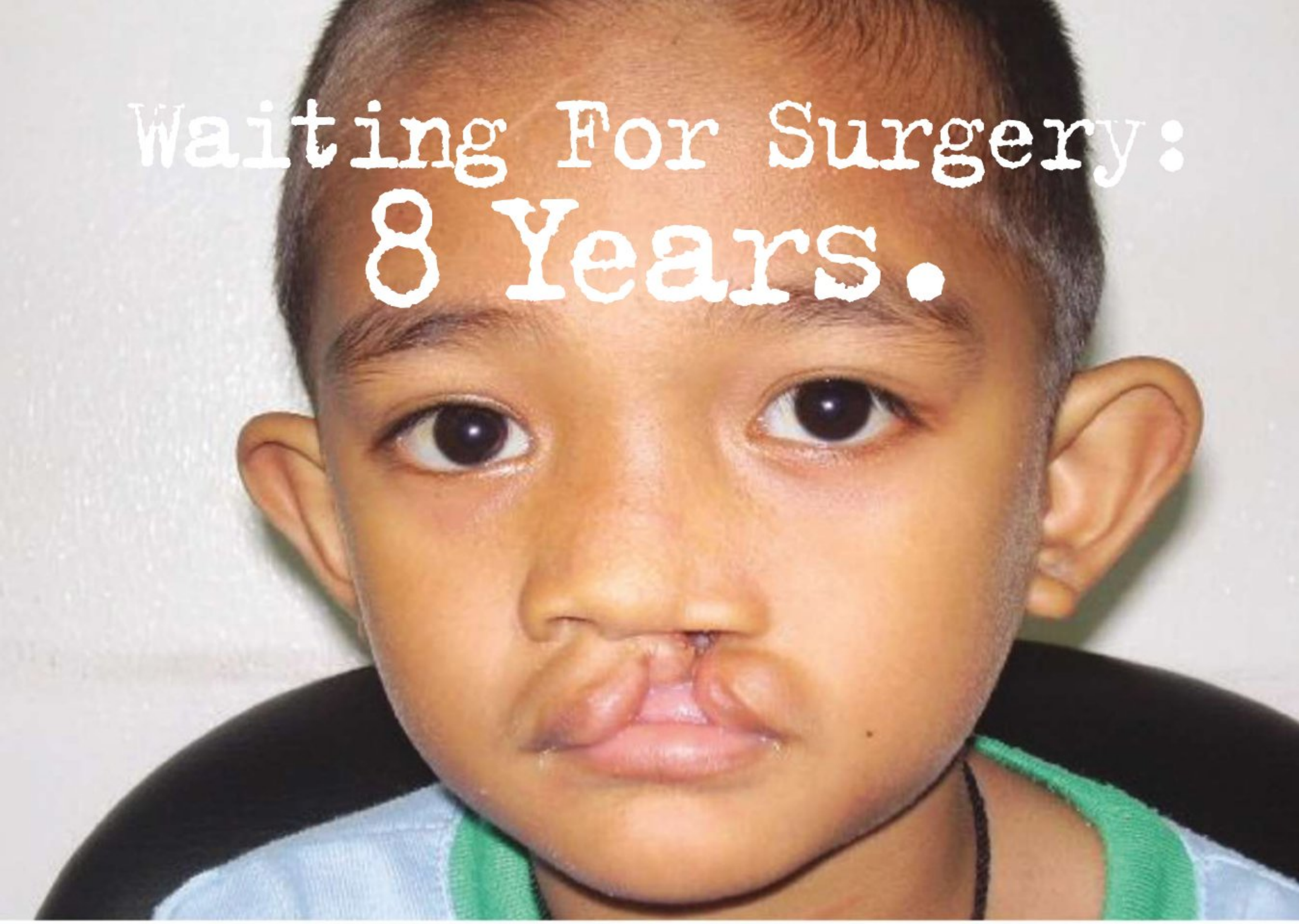

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STYLE 360

New York Fashion Week • September 12-15, 2009

The sixth annual STYLE360 hosted its most impressive roster yet of international designers and fashion houses including Walter, Abi Ferrin, Rebecca Minkoff, Caravan design collective, Malan Breton, Abbey Dawn by Avril Lavigne, Geren Ford, Liquid Metal, Gen Art Fresh Faces, and the Pink Dress Collection featuring garments from Nicole Miller, Pamela Roland, and Betsey Johnson among others.

WALTER

Rebecca Minkoff

Geren Ford

Abbey Dawn by Avril Lavigne

Malan Breton

Abi Ferrin

Liquid Metal

Gen Art Fresh Faces

Caravan

The Pink Dress Collection

RADO SWITZERLAND · PRAIRIE ORGANIC VODKA · Oral-B PULSONIC · Tide TOTALCARE · clarisonic SONIC SKIN CARE · SEPHORA THE BEAUTY AUTHORITY · TONI&GUY

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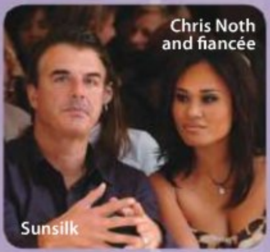
Brooke Burke with Clarisonic

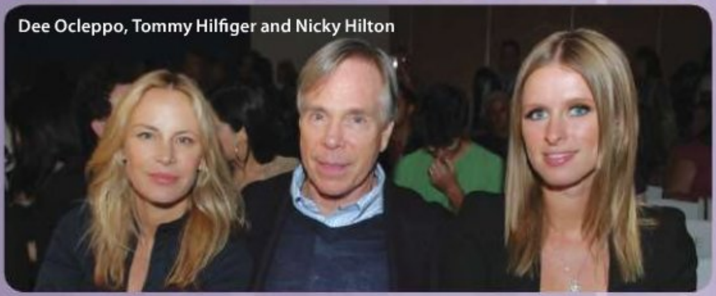
Prairie Vodka and Rose's Mojito


Chris Noth and fiancée

Sunsilk

Maria Menounos in the Oral-B Pulsonic Suite

Lauren Conrad


Dee Ocleppo, Tommy Hilfiger and Nicky Hilton

Gerard Butler with Orbit Mist model

Once again, STYLE360 provided a platform for stylish brands to engage with celebrities, designers and fashionable consumers. Orbit Mist ensured every fashion show attendee had fresh breath—a must during Fashion Week—by distributing free packets of its new gum that provides a hydrating sensation. Prairie Vodka and Rose's Mojito offered unique cocktails within the Metropolitan Pavilion's VIP media lounge and at all afterparties.

Clarisonic, the sonic skin care system, presented the Pink Dress Collection. Celebrities, breast cancer survivors and models all walked the runway to help raise funds and awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Brooke Burke debuted the Limited Edition Clarisonic on the catwalk. Designed exclusively for the event, 50% of the profit from the sales of the Limited Edition Clarisonic will benefit the Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Visit clarisonic.com

International handbag company Kipling allowed attendees to take a spin on a prize wheel to win complimentary gear, while its handbags were seen on the runway during the Walter show.

Maria Menounos helped align the Pulsonic—Oral-B's slimmest and lightest rechargeable sonic toothbrush—with cutting edge style by bringing tastemakers "the skinny" on everything happening at STYLE360. Not only did the Pulsonic make a runway appearance during the Caravan show, but Maria also hosted "The Oral-B Pulsonic Skinny of Fashion" interviews with everyone from Avril Lavigne to the Real Housewives of New Jersey.

The RADO photo booth delighted celebrities and fashionistas alike with instant headshots and glimpses of its luxurious watches, while ELLE Jewelry dazzled with its array of bright baubles.

Tide Total Care presented the Geren Ford show and four of the brand's mom bloggers strutted down the runway in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Opening the Pink Dress Collection were models wearing Ford Warriors in Pink apparel, from which 100% of the net proceeds go to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Visit fordcares.com to purchase.

Special thanks to: Toni & Guy, Sephora, The Gates, What Goes Around Comes Around, and Renaissance Hotels.

Avril Lavigne

Models sporting Rado watches

Tiffani-Amber Thiessen

Mr. Hudson performing on the rooftop of NY's Renaissance Hotel 57

Erin Lucas enjoys her ELLE Jewelry

Caroline, Jacqueline and Teresa of *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*

Kristin Cavallari loves her Kipling bag

Ford Warriors in Pink apparel

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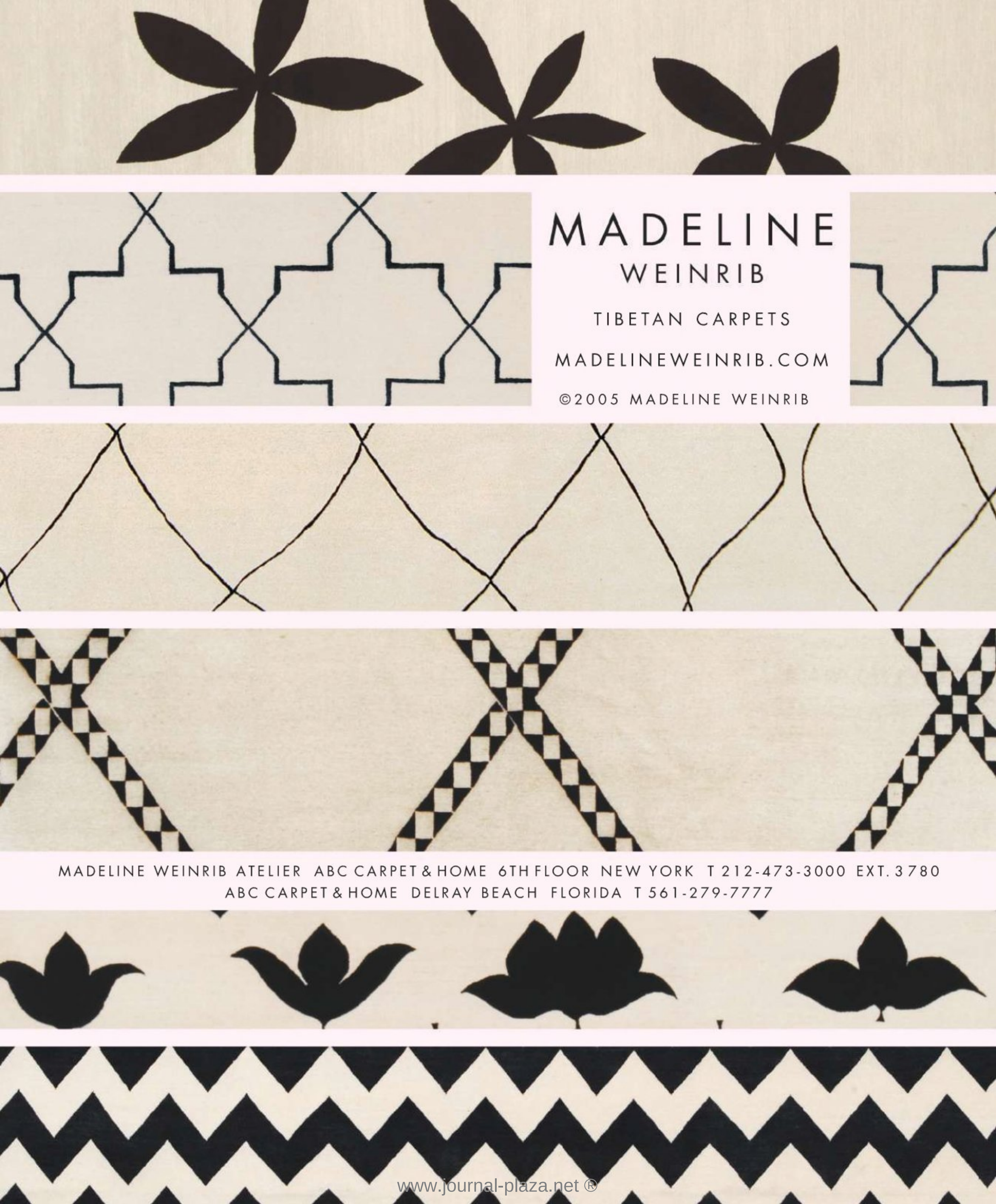

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ELLE DECOR Style

How do you conjure warm and welcoming? Courtnay Daniels Haden fills her cozy San Francisco townhouse with art and books. David Kleinberg adds fresh color to his Palm Beach getaway. An Italian family in Manhattan evokes memories of home with pale minimalism. In the New York City apartment of stylist JC Garcia-Lavin, the more modern art the merrier. Steven Gambrel contrasts black and white with garden-green in a Long Island mansion. Daniel Romualdez injects downtown chic into a classic Upper East Side space. And our array of blue accessories proves even the coolest hue can provoke heated desire.

SIMON UPTON

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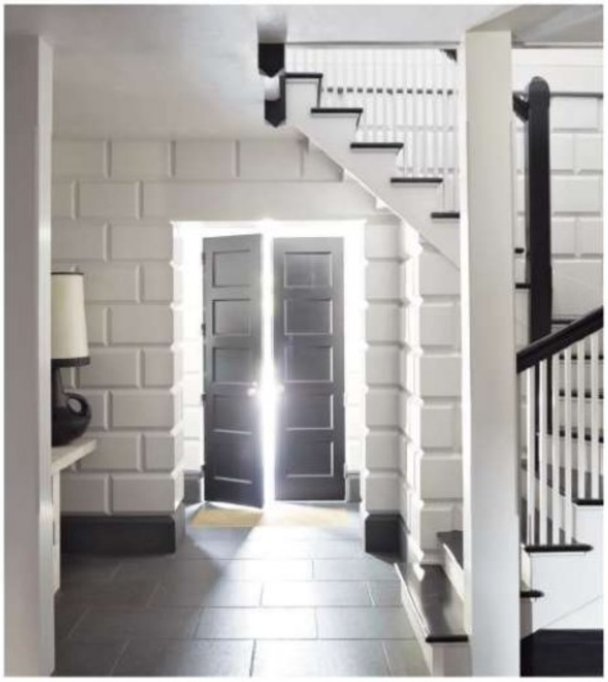

BOLD STROKES

KNOWN FOR HIS DARING USE OF COLOR, INTERIOR DESIGNER STEVEN GAMBREL TOOK A STRIKINGLY GRAPHIC APPROACH TO TRANSFORM A NEGLECTED ESTATE INTO A GETAWAY AS GLAMOROUS AS ITS HAMPTONS SETTING

Text by Ingrid Abramovitch
Photography by Eric Piasecki

In the late 1980s, landscape designer Deborah Nevins created a garden in Southampton, New York, that to this day inspires awe in all who see it. The scheme, influenced by Vita Sackville-West's classic English garden Sissinghurst, consists of a series of walled areas in which soaring copper beech hedges frame luxuriant plantings of roses and wildflowers.

But where the garden was audacious and unforgettable, the house on the property was lackluster and awkward. A redbrick structure dating from the 1890s, it was handsome enough on the outside, but its interior layout had devolved over time into a confusing labyrinth of narrow halls and cramped rooms. When it went on the market several years ago, many potential buyers were daunted. "People were intrigued by the land and the location," says Virginia-born interior designer Steven Gambrel. "But they couldn't see past the house."

The eventual owner, a Manhattan financier, wasn't for a moment intimidated. He had already renovated a series of homes, from New York City to Florida, and was confident the place could be turned into a

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In the living room of a Southampton, New York, house decorated by Steven Gambrel, the sofa and love seat are upholstered in linen fabrics by Scalamandré and Pierre Frey, respectively, and the mixed-media work is by Joonsung Bae; chandeliers from Holly Hunt are suspended from the black-painted ceiling. Facing page: The front entry's "ice block" wall treatment was inspired by one found at George Washington's historic home, Mount Vernon. See Resources.

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The living room features paintings by Sven Braun, a cocktail table by Gambrel, and a rug by Beauvais Carpets. Facing page, from top: The Gambrel-designed club chairs and ottoman are upholstered in Schumacher and Pierre Frey fabrics, respectively, and the limestone mantel was custom made by Jamb. Vintage stools from Downtown with an octagonal table designed by Gambrel in the reception room; the rug is by Beauvais Carpets. See Resources.

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Benches purchased from the estate of Bill Blass flank a 19th-century Belgian oak table from Lucca Antiques in the kitchen; the ceiling fixtures are by Visual Comfort, the pendant lights are from John Derian Co., and the floor tiles are French. Facing page: Landscape architect Perry Guillot recently reconceived the formal gardens, originally designed by Deborah Nevins. See Resources.

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weekend getaway that rivaled the garden in its ability to dazzle. One of the first calls he made was to Gambrel, whom he had hired to redo four previous properties, including his Manhattan townhouse. "We have a nice, clear understanding," Gambrel says. "This client is not afraid of good design."

The impact of the subsequent overhaul is evident as soon as one steps inside, where a formerly dark hall has been transformed into a dramatic entry with walls covered in wood blocks carved and painted to resemble stonework. Gambrel says he first noticed the trompe l'oeil device, which he calls ice block, at George Washington's Mount Vernon. "I like the transition it creates between outside and inside," he says. "It feels architectural, yet also startling and unexpected."

The hall is almost Escher-like in its stark black-and-white pattern and repetitive geometry. It's a graphic effect that Gambrel repeats in the kitchen, where the floor features gray, black, and white French concrete squares with an Op Art look, and the walls are lined in glazed ebony ceramic tile from a firm that once supplied them to fire stations. "I do love black," says Gambrel, who used the color on window frames and walls as well as on the living room's expansive plank ceiling. "In an enormous room, a dark ceiling helps to create contrast," Gambrel says. "Rather than making a space feel smaller, as you might expect, it helps to define its outer edges, encouraging visual scale."

A master colorist, Gambrel accents this strong palette with attention-grabbing hues. A bold pine-green, inspired by the garden, turns up on everything from carpets to upholstery to the malachite of a fireplace mantel, while a guest bedroom's walls are coated in high-gloss forest-green. The shade reaches its greatest saturation point in the living room, where a sofa and a round tufted ottoman, both designed by Gambrel, are covered in emerald fabric. This hit of vivid color enlivens the cavernous space and complements the room's rich decor, featuring a pair of ten-foot-long Moderne-style sofas in a slate-gray Scalamandré linen, a duo of Jean Royère ebonized side tables, and two gigantic black chandeliers.

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A range by Wolf, a custom-made hood, and black subway tile in the kitchen. Facing page: The dining room's Swedish Grace table from H. M. Luther Antiques displays terra-cotta vases from Sentimento Antiques; the chairs are by McGuire Furniture, the sculpture is by Antony Gormley, the 19th-century mirror is from Amy Perlin Antiques, and the sisal is by Beauvais Carpets. See Resources.

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THE OWNER WAS CONFIDENT THE PLACE
COULD BE TURNED INTO
A DAZZLING WEEKEND GETAWAY THAT RIVALED THE
GARDEN—AND THE FIRST CALL HE MADE
WAS TO GAMBREL

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Clockwise from top left: The master bath's shower walls and floor are travertine, and the sconces are by Jacques Adnet. In a guest bedroom, the bed is upholstered in a Schumacher linen, and the desk, chairs, and mirrored screen are vintage; the curtains are of a Hinson crewel fabric, and the walls are painted in Dutch Door Green by Fine Paints of Europe. The master bath's vintage steel fireplace surround was found in Paris. See Resources.

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From left: The master bedroom features a Gambrel-designed bed with throw pillows covered in a Fortuny cotton. Custom-made cabinetry, 1960s light fixtures from Downtown, and Roman shades of a Lee Jofa linen in the master dressing room. Facing page: Family photographs framed in red line a hallway; the picture lights are by Visual Comfort. See Resources.

Red is also used to great effect, from a hallway hung with black-and-white family photos in matching scarlet frames and a crimson-carpeted cloak room to a pair of old-fashioned lacquered swing doors on the main level that open to the kitchen. To get there, one must pass through a succession of rooms whose theatricality seems straight out of an Agatha Christie novel. In this over-the-top enfilade, the eye-catching entryway flows into an imposing reception room with a pair of carved-wood George II consoles in the shape of twisting branches and a striking plaster chinoiserie wall relief. Beyond is a butler's pantry, which doubles as a bar. As a drink is proffered, one notices that the entire room, including walls, ceiling, and a bronze sculpture resting on a pedestal, is black as night—save for the red door that leads to the sunny kitchen.

Upstairs, the master suite is reached via a dressing room Gambrel outfitted sumptuously with a goatskin rug, vintage Maison Charles lanterns, and floor-to-ceiling cabinets painted high-gloss white with red trim. The rest of the suite is no less luxe, with elements inspired by both the owner's and Gambrel's travels: an ebonized headboard whose shape is a nod to the architecture of Flanders, a 19th-century Chinese console at the foot of the bed, and a pair of bathroom vanities modeled on those in Claridge's, the owner's favorite London hotel.

From the bedroom's large windows, Nevins's lush formal garden—recently reconceived and replanted by Hamptons-based landscape architect Perry Guillot—provides a breathtaking view. But just as the owner hoped, his home's interior now more than holds its own. ■

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MONICA MANDELLI AND MARCO VALLA know that their young family's starkly elegant Upper East Side apartment foils the expectations of many. "We get three different kinds of reactions," Mandelli says. "Our closest friends who have spent a lot of time in Europe and have been to the house where I grew up will say, 'God, this place is so like your mother's!'"

Next, she says, "the people who know us here and who have traveled in Italy say, 'This place is so you guys—it's such a Milan apartment!'"

Third and last, the investment banker explains, "are people who have never been to Italy, don't know my background, and who say, 'Wow, this is so white. We didn't realize you guys were so contemporary!'"

This last reaction especially amuses her. "We're really not that contemporary," she insists. "We like the opera!"

Though they both grew up in Milan and knew of each other's families, the couple actually first met in New York City, after Mandelli graduated from Harvard Business School. A friend introduced her to Valla, also an investment banker, and two years later they were married and ensconced in Lower Manhattan. "We liked living downtown because it was so hip and there were so many great restaurants," Mandelli says. But when it came time to buy, they opted for an entirely different neighborhood. "What we love about the Upper East Side is that it feels very civilized," she says. "And it does remind me of Europe. There's an element of tradition here that's very appealing."

But though they wanted tradition, they had no intention of forgoing the easy informality and wide-open spaces they had enjoyed downtown. So they turned to interior designer Bruce T. Bananto, whose work they had admired in a magazine, to merge the two apartments they purchased in a building steps off Fifth Avenue.

"We clicked within minutes," says Bananto, who came up with an ingenious proposal to bring to life the couple's vision of downtown style with uptown elegance: He would eliminate all the conventional rooms and then reconfigure the spaces with a series of sliding walls, many made of translucent glass. One solid wall can be moved into place to

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MINIMAL EFFORTS

A YOUNG COUPLE CELEBRATES THEIR ITALIAN MODERNIST ROOTS IN A MANHATTAN APARTMENT OUTFITTED IN STREAMLINED FURNISHINGS AND A PURE PALETTE

TEXT BY DAVID COLMAN · PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSHUA McHUGH · PRODUCED BY ELIZABETH SVERBEYEFF BYRON

The living area of Monica Mandelli and Marco Valla's Manhattan apartment, which was designed by Bruce T. Bananto, features a sofa by Piero Lissoni, in front of the window, and a Charles sofa by Antonio Citterio for B&B Italia with a cocktail table by Robert Kuo; the artwork is by Julian Stanczak, the rug is from Belgium, and the stainless-steel benches, side table, and lounge chairs are all by Bananto. Facing page: The sitting room's armchair is by Gerrit Rietveld, and the staircase is sheathed in CaesarStone. See Resources.

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Bananto designed the dining table, which is clad in DuPont Corian; the chairs are by Mario Bellini for Cassina, the painting is by Kuno Gonschior, and the rug is by Bruder & Co. Facing page, clockwise from top left: The lithographs in the stairway are by Ellsworth Kelly. In the media room, a Theo Ruth armchair found in Paris, a stool by Arne Jacobsen, and a custom-made lacquer cabinet. The kitchen cabinetry by Varenna Poliform has counters of CaesarStone; the cooktop is by Viking, the refrigerator is by Sub-Zero, the ovens are by Miele, and the sink fittings are by Dornbracht. The Saarinen Tulip table in the breakfast room is paired with Arne Jacobsen chairs. Mandelli and Valla share the office, which has a built-in desk of DuPont Corian set against a wall of laminated glass; the swivel chair is by Koi Design, and the lamps are by Robert Dudley. See Resources.

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In the master bedroom, a Vico Magistretti lamp sits atop a wall-mounted cabinet by Bananto; the rosewood tables are by Willy Beck, the bedding is by D. Porthault, and the etching is by Marc Chagall. Facing page, from left: The master bath vanity of CaesarStone has undermount sinks by Kohler and Dornbracht fittings; the wastebasket is by John Brauer. Panton Junior chairs by Vitra in the son's bedroom. See Resources.

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"LIFE GETS COMPLICATED," SAYS MONICA MANDELLI, "AND WE WANTED TO COME HOME TO SOMETHING FRESH AND CRISP AND CLEAN. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, LOTS OF LITTLE TOUCHES ADD A WARM FEEL TO THE PLACE"

separate the casual half of the apartment (housing the kitchen, the media room, and the bedroom of their three-year-old son) from the more formal living and dining areas; there's also a foyer and a sitting room that is anchored by a sculptural staircase leading to the couple's bedroom, shared office, and guest bedrooms.

Several sliding glass walls partition off the kitchen. During cocktail parties and dinners, it can be concealed entirely. When the couple entertains family and close friends, the kitchen and breakfast room open up to the media room, creating an expansive loft space. To add to the convivial feeling, they even chose bright-yellow Le Creuset cookware, which echoes the colors of an artwork by Julian Stanczak in the living area.

But as clever as the sliding walls are, Bananto's real achievement was, as Mandelli's comment suggests, to create the feeling of a true Milanese apartment—it has both the casual openheartedness that everyone invariably expects of Italians and a serenely modern formality that is not as well known in this country, but is no less an element of Italian style.

"Life gets complicated, and we wanted to come home to something fresh and crisp and clean, without the clutter you have in your everyday work life," Mandelli says. "But at the same time there are a lot of things, little touches, that add a warm feel to the place. That's important—we like to be very welcoming here." So the apartment is a study of warm played against cool, with designs by a range of minimalists from Gerrit Rietveld and Mario Bellini to Antonio Citterio, the majority in pure white. The Belgian-oak floors, the color of cappuccino, contrast with the stairway crafted of ivory CaesarStone. The stark white silhouette of the dining table designed by Bananto is offset by a suite of Cab chairs in Cognac-color leather. Elbow-angled Rietveld armchairs are upholstered in soothing cream felt. Even the sharp edges of Robert Kuo's cocktail table have been softened by dozens of coats of snowy lacquer. And for a corner that in a classic apartment might feature a grand mirror, Bananto found the perfect solution: a stainless-steel artwork by Margaret Evangeline that has been shot full of bullet holes.

This most brutal of gestures actually conjures memories of Italy for the couple. "Growing up in Milan, everyone had a small Fontana," says Mandelli, referring to the iconic Italian painter Lucio Fontana, known for canvases with slits and holes. "This one seemed like a new version of that—cutting through the metal reminded me of cutting through the canvas." It may seem odd that a remnant of such violence could be taken as a sweet signifier of home, but yesterday's radical movements are today's nostalgia. In Italy, it's been going on for 2,500 years. ■

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In the San Francisco living room of interior designer Courtnay Daniels Haden, *Raincoat* by Amy Kaufman is displayed with an 18th-century cocktail table. An antique French chair (center) and an armchair Haden inherited from her mother are upholstered in a silk taffeta from Claremont and a rayon-silk from Rose Tarlow Melrose House, respectively; the wall color is Poppy Pods by PPG Porter Paints. Facing page: The bay window's bamboo blinds are by Smith + Noble, and the sofa is upholstered in Puissance fabric by Rogers & Goffigon. See Resources.

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VICTORIAN REVIVAL

IN HER HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO HOME, COURTNAY DANIELS HADEN COMBINES HER CURATORIAL EYE WITH A FREEWHEELING APPROACH TO FAMILY LIVING

Text by Jaime Gross · Photography by Simon Upton · Produced by Kate Rheinstein Brodsky · Styled by Anita Sarsidi

On a recent afternoon, clusters of tourists gathered outside the San Francisco home of Courtnay Daniels Haden, snapping photos paparazzi style. The gray-and-white Victorian, built in 1879, is one of the oldest in the Pacific Heights neighborhood, but these giddy twenty- and thirtysomethings were not architectural historians.

"*Full House* fans," remarks Haden good-naturedly, ensconced in her living room and eyeing the circus through the bay window. Indeed, the exterior was featured in the long-running sitcom, and the residence still attracts the nostalgic. But it wasn't the association with pop culture that drew Haden and her former husband to the three-bedroom house in 2006. It was the gigantic basement, which they transformed into a playroom for their two young children, and the surprisingly formal postage-stamp-size English garden in the backyard, verdant with 40-year-old boxwood hedges. "That boxwood resonated with my East Coast sensibility," explains Haden, who moved to San Francisco from New York in 1998 and soon after started an interior-design firm.

The place serves as a perfect reflection of her quirky, family-friendly, artcentric aesthetic, which dictates comfort first and foremost, and no off-limits areas. "No one really wants to live in a staged home," she says, curled up on a silk-upholstered chair, her feet tucked beneath her. "It should be fun to live in—especially when you have kids." However, Haden's idea of child-appropriate decor is a bit unconventional, to say the least. A former assistant vice president at Christie's auction house with a special interest in 18th- and 19th-century decorative arts, she has filled her residence with an eclectic assortment of antiques, most displayed within arm's reach of her daughter and son. Nine-year-old Bankes

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The living room features an 18th-century Chinese cocktail table, an ebonized Regency gilt mirror, and built-in shelves fitted with brass lights by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort; a silhouette by Kara Walker hangs above the sofa, which is covered in a linen velvet by Cowtan & Tout. Facing page, clockwise from top: Haden at home; the mixed-media artwork is by Castaneda/Reiman. In the office, a 19th-century English library chair (right) upholstered in a Clarence House suede and a Tibetan jute rug from Abbey Carpet & Floor; the framed drawing is by Hugo Guinness. The front hall's wallpaper is by Brunschwig & Fils. See Resources.

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stows her clothes in an 18th-century English bureau inlaid with wood-parquet shells, while five-year-old Bennett sleeps in a circa-1820 French bed with a trundle underneath for sleepovers. In the double-parlor living room, which drips with original Victorian details, a set of 18th-century gilded curtain tiebacks is displayed on the cocktail table; nearby is a miniature 6th-century Roman marble bust Bennett likes to pick up and carry around the house. "I should probably put these things on a mantel, and yet I have them at child height," she observes with a wry smile. "But I figure they've made it this far. If they get chipped, they get chipped."

She traces this laid-back approach to her time at the auction house, when she spent afternoons combing through clients' estates and getting a behind-the-scenes glimpse at how collectors arrange their living spaces. "The most interesting places I saw were owned by people who surrounded themselves with the things they love," she says. "I learned that passion about objects and furnishings makes for fearless decorators—and that if you are comfortable in your home, everyone else will be too. That sense of authenticity is what gives a home its soul."

In Haden's case, authenticity means thousands of volumes on art and design, displayed on built-in bookshelves in almost every room ("I collect books like they're going out of style," she admits), and a mix of furnishings that ranges from early-20th-century Chinese tables to antique Dutch chairs to an unexpected menagerie of stuffed pheasants encased in Victorian shadow boxes. It also means contemporary art

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From top: In the kitchen, 19th-century American carousel fragments are displayed in the cabinets; the vent hood is by GE. The limestone finials in the garden, which was designed by landscape architect Kate Webster, are by Authentic Provence. Facing page: The antique Dutch chairs in the dining room were purchased at Christie's, and the tablecloth is made of a Bennison linen; the drawing on the mantel is by Tracey Emin, the mirror is 1920s American, and the coral fans are antique. See Resources.

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From top: Drawings by Tracey Emin flank a custom-made headboard upholstered in a Cowtan & Tout cotton in the master bedroom; the bedside tables are copies of antique plant stands, the 17th-century bench is Chinese, and the Tibetan jute rug is from Abbey Carpet & Floor. The antique bed in Bennett's room is upholstered in a Calvin Fabrics linen and dressed in bedding by Matouk; the hanging lamp is by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort, and the bird prints are from Anthropologie. Facing page: In the master bedroom, the two Victorian slipper chairs are upholstered in a Clarence House fabric Haden salvaged from the walls of her mother's old bedroom; an antique Swedish bench serves as an ottoman, and the television is by Panasonic. See Resources.

throughout, much of it unabashedly edgy. In the living room is a provocative Kara Walker silhouette, *I'll Be a Monkey's Uncle,* and a large enamel-on-aluminum nude by Natasha Law dominates the dining room, while a series of Tracey Emin drawings hangs in the master bedroom. Downstairs, the playroom is dotted with minimalist prints by Donald Judd, which the interior designer recently snagged at—where else?—a Christie's sale.

But it's not only rarefied pieces that inspire Haden. One of her favorite finds is a pair of mounted marble circular sculptures she showcases on a living room table, where they are strikingly backlit by the bay window. "Everyone thinks they're by the British artist Barbara Hepworth," she says, and then lowers her voice to a mock whisper: "They're actually from Anthropologie and cost $75 each! That's proof you can go anywhere and discover something good."

If the soul of Haden's home originates with inhabitants who occupy it fully and fearlessly, surrounded by what they love, the heart of it comes from sharing it with others. Asked to describe her perfect evening, the enthusiastic hostess says, "A dozen friends over for a buffet dinner of spaghetti and really good wine, with the kids playing downstairs." On such nights, the living room's glossy mushroom-color walls glow with candlelight, some guests sit at a table playing dominos, others cluster around the fireplace chatting and drinking wine, and the sound of giggling children issues from the playroom. Full house indeed—and exactly how Haden likes it. ■

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PALM BEACH STORY

INTERIOR DESIGNER DAVID KLEINBERG SIDESTEPS FLORIDA CLICHÉS TO CREATE A WINTER GETAWAY THAT'S

TEXT BY MITCHELL OWENS · PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM WALDRON · STYLED BY CARLOS MOTA

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In the living room of decorator David Kleinberg's duplex in Palm Beach, Florida, the custom-made sofas and armchair by Anthony Lawrence-Belfair and the mahogany-and-stone cocktail table by Gurfein Woodwork are all Kleinberg designs; the painting is by Joe Andoe, the curtains are of Albert Hadley's Willows fabric, and the wool rug is by Patterson, Flynn & Martin. See Resources.

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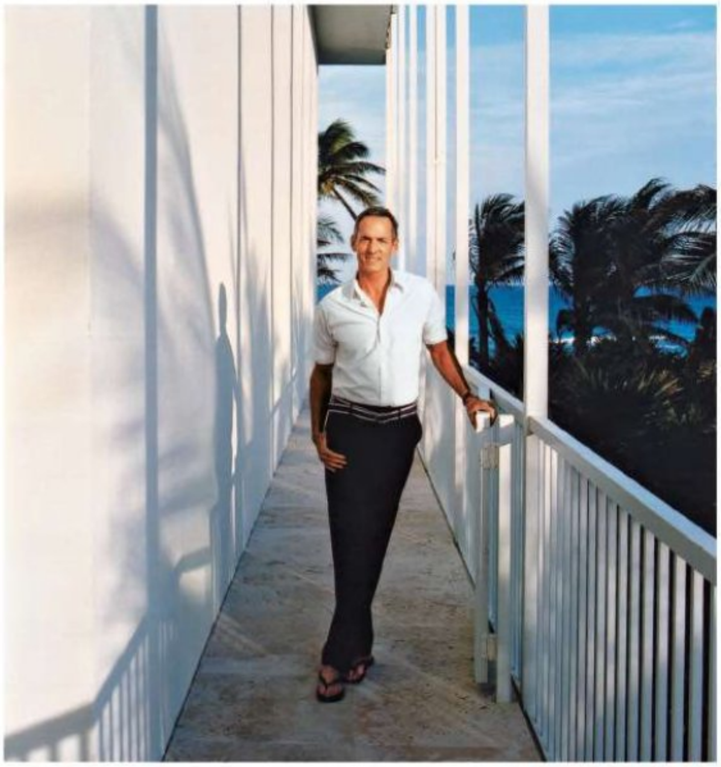

FEW FANS WOULD THINK of David Kleinberg as an old-fashioned kind of guy. But with a career of creating interiors characterized by up-to-date adjectives—sleek, modern, cerebral, suave—it does come as a surprise to learn that when he purchased a place in Florida as a part-time getaway from his New York City digs, he shied away from the Sunshine State's celebrated hot spots. "Miami Beach and South Beach are just too hectic for me," admits the debonair decorator.

Palm Beach, on the other hand, was just his cup of tea. "It's calm, neat, and manicured—all the things I like," Kleinberg says. "Plus it's livable and easy." Another draw was a six-story concrete-and-stucco apartment building designed in the early 1960s by Edward Durell Stone, a modernist with a distinctly ornamental attitude. Kleinberg had long admired the structure, and with its slender white aluminum columns and glassy graphic façade, "it almost looks like the Kennedy Center from the exterior," he says, referring to the Washington, D.C., high-culture complex that Stone created. And then there was the view from the two-bedroom duplex apartment he ended up buying in the Stone building: a dead-on vista of the Atlantic Ocean, foamy waves crashing onto snowy sands.

So far, so swell—at least after he gutted the apartment, resurfacing walls, installing new floors, and constructing au courant baths and a new kitchen. The floor plan remained untouched, however, because Kleinberg felt the original layout, with spaces for entertaining

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Clockwise from far left: In the dining room, a framed ink drawing by Jim Lutes. The guest bedroom curtains and wall covering are of a fabric based on an 18th-century pattern; the Claudia Moreira Salles desk is from Espasso. An Alex Katz lithograph and a vintage console in the dining room. The metal chair in the kitchen is circa-1960 American. In the master bedroom, the pillows, bedding, and throw are by Chaz Stevens, and the stools are by Stephane Ducatteau. Walls sheathed in white Carrara marble in the master bath. The living room's limed-oak-and-bronze cabinet is vintage. The chairs by André Sornay in the master bedroom are covered in a Romo fabric that is also used for the curtains. Interior designer David Kleinberg. See Resources.

on the first floor and private rooms above, was pretty perfect. When it came to the decor, he was determined to steer clear of style that smacked of old-time Florida. "That '60s-revival thing is not who I am," he says. On the list of things to avoid? Acid hues, palm-tree motifs, seashells, and white-plaster funkiness. "Once you've adopted even one of those elements, it's a slippery slope," Kleinberg states dryly. "But I did want to play with colors, especially those I don't normally gravitate toward."

So the decorator took his preferred palette of crisp whites, grays, and blacks and goosed it with calculated doses of chromatic brilliance. Yellow and pink cushions dot the creamy sofas in the living room, whose walls are painted a pearlescent gray. In the dining area, a luscious coral lines the inside of a lampshade, casting a rosy glow. "I had never used these hues before," he explains. "It might seem to be a very timid foray into color, but for me it was a big step in many ways, and enough to make the home feel bright. Palm Beach is a warm, sunny environment, so it's fun to have this place not feel like New York City."

The guest room contains probably the boldest scheme in the apartment, with walls and windows covered in a fabric featuring stylized overscale pineapples rendered in sulfurous saffron and marigold. He likes what he calls "its slightly retro quality—you can't really tell if it's a '70s motif or an 18th-century document." And, as Kleinberg notes, since the space is only for family or friends, "it can tolerate more pattern." In the living room, he found a spot for an Albert Hadley fabric he loved, fashioning the vintage print of willowlike leaves into full-length curtains. (Kleinberg cut his aesthetic teeth at the acclaimed firm Parish-Hadley Associates and counts the elder statesman of American interior design as a mentor.)

Kleinberg has always had a fondness for streamlined 20th-century furniture, and he peppered his Palm Beach home with some prime examples. In the guest room hangs a tailored midcentury French mirror, while the living room houses graceful oak-and-iron side chairs near a gleaming limed-oak-and-bronze Art Deco cabinet. In the corner sits one of his favorites—a comfortable '50s Italian lounge chair by Osvaldo Borsani perfectly positioned by the window "for reading the Sunday paper and gazing out at the waves," as he says. Kleinberg also designed several pieces, notably a round cocktail table topped with polished fossil stone and a set of white-lacquer chairs inspired by the work of Scandinavian icon Kaare Klint that surrounds the mahogany table in the dining room.

The master bedroom is the only part of the pied-à-terre that makes an overt reference to the setting. Awash in a clear shade of pale blue, it seamlessly connects with the sea beyond the windows. "I've never had a colorful bedroom before," Kleinberg exults. And though he swears the choice of blue was inadvertent, when a visitor points out another nod to Palm Beach in the large white coral formation that rests atop the dining table, he sheepishly demurs: "Well, I am in Florida after all." ■

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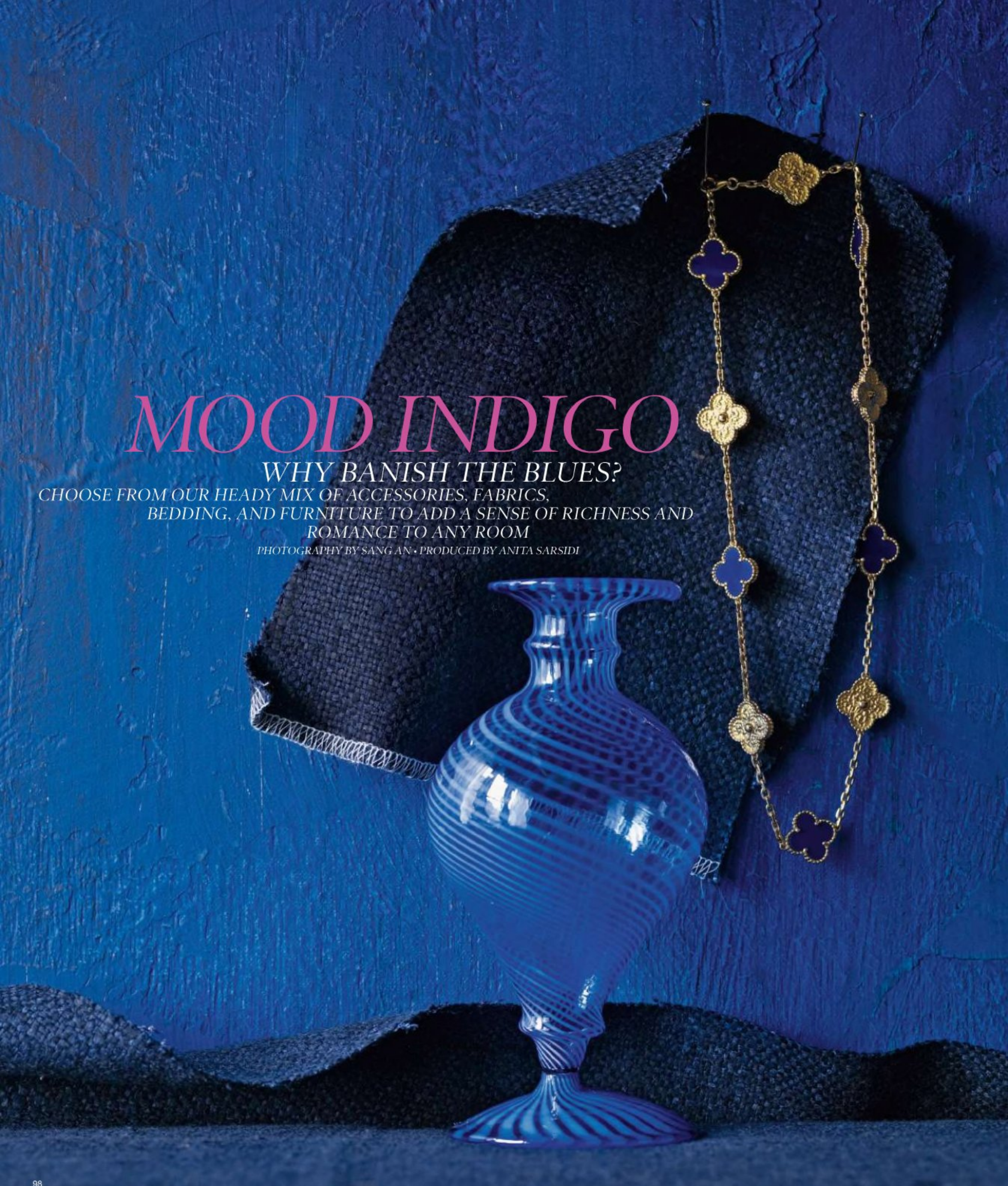

MOOD INDIGO

WHY BANISH THE BLUES?

CHOOSE FROM OUR HEADY MIX OF ACCESSORIES, FABRICS, BEDDING, AND FURNITURE TO ADD A SENSE OF RICHNESS AND ROMANCE TO ANY ROOM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANG AN • PRODUCED BY ANITA SARSIDI

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From bottom left: Chrysanthemum Gourd vase by Williams-Sonoma Home. Langley vase by Ralph Lauren Home. Chinese planter from Flair. Tall bottle by Judy Jackson Stoneware. Chinese Phoenix vase from Flair. Miles dining chair by Jed Johnson for John Rosselli & Assoc. Floral jar by Williams-Sonoma Home. Chinese Basket Shape vase from Flair. Background: Tree of Life wall hanging by Les Indiennes.
Facing page, from top: Bridport silk by Ralph Lauren Home. Seventieth Anniversary Alhambra necklace by Van Cleef & Arpels. Spiral Effect bud vase by Two's Company. See Resources.

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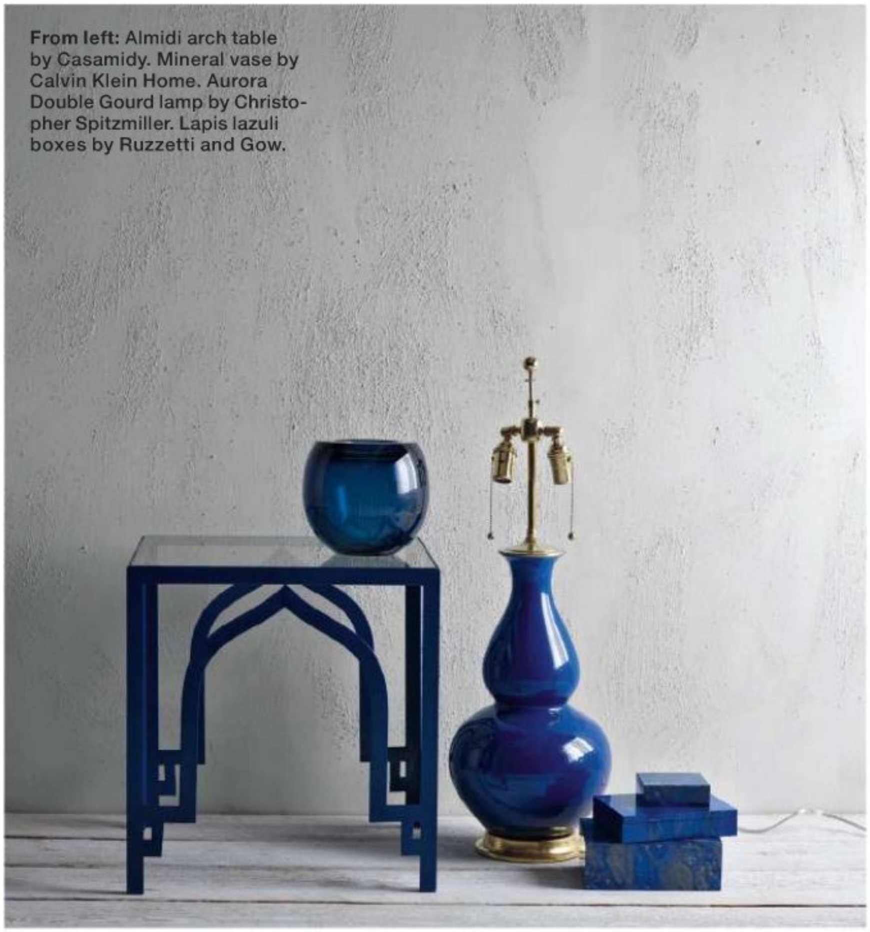
From left: Almidi arch table by Casamidy. Mineral vase by Calvin Klein Home. Aurora Double Gourd lamp by Christopher Spitzmiller. Lapis lazuli boxes by Ruzzetti and Gow.



So Kelly bag by Hermès. Striped scarf by Meg Cohen from John Derian Dry Goods. Background: The Lotus Papers wall covering by Farrow & Ball.

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From left: Bedcover by Aboubakar Fofana for ABC Carpet & Home used as rug. Sevigne bergère by Pierre Deux. Small diamond indigo ikat fabric by John Robshaw Textiles. Java pillow by the Koko Co. Indigo-dipped framed painting by John Robshaw Textiles. Tung lantern by Casamidy. Monumental horse-head sculpture from Flair. See Resources.

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Clockwise from top left: Indigo Dip pillow by John Robshaw Textiles. Stripes Design #5 fabric by Les Indiennes. Etienne floral fabric by Ralph Lauren Home. Original blue-check pillow sham by Hästens. Bagru indigo fabric by John Robshaw Textiles. La Garoupe throw-pillow sham by Ralph Lauren Home. Dark Indigo Herringbone Ikat fabric by John Robshaw Textiles. Quilted throw by Utility Canvas. Flower Cut Out 4 fabric by Vanderhurd.

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From top: Turtle platter from Aero. Imari bowl and Senbiki off-center bowl from Dandelion. Blue Dragon bread-and-butter and dessert plates by Mottahedeh. Adelaide salad plate and cereal bowl by Ralph Lauren Home. Teacup from Dandelion. Hiragata Meshi-Wan crosshatch bowl by Hakusan Porcelain Co. Pale blue ceramic bowl by Daniel Reynolds for Ruzzetti and Gow. Antibes dessert plate by Ralph Lauren Home. Starburst plate and Senbiki bowl from Dandelion. See Resources.

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A work by Joan Miró is displayed above the limestone mantel in the living area of a Manhattan apartment designed by Daniel Romualdez; a cocktail table by André Joyau Studio is made of reclaimed wood, and the walls are finished in waxed plaster. Facing page: The sofa, club chairs, and banquettes—all variations on classic designs—are covered in a Holland & Sherry linen; the floor lamps are by Romualdez, and the rug is by Patterson, Flynn & Martin. See Resources.

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CLEAN LIVING

ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER DANIEL ROMUALDEZ INFUSES AN APARTMENT IN A STORIED UPPER EAST SIDE BUILDING WITH A COOL SERENITY THAT MAKES ITS STUNNING RIVER VIEWS THE STAR

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY WENDY GOODMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIETER ESTERSOHN

Ten Gracie Square is one of the most exclusive enclaves on Manhattan's Upper East Side, a prewar beauty of brick and limestone with unparalleled views of the East River, a history of famous tenants, and a fortresslike invulnerability that can be intimidating to the uninvited. It's not the kind of building one first associates with expansive lofts or refined minimalist detailing.

A couple with two teenage sons who purchased a duplex in the building wanted exactly that, however—downtown style at an uptown address. Fortunately, they turned to Daniel Romualdez, an architect and designer who has an especially deft hand with the classical vocabulary and is known to bring elegance and energy to rooms others might treat with staid respect. Not that the decision was easy. Just as they had looked at two other apartments in the building before choosing this duplex, the couple interviewed five candidates before selecting Romualdez. They admired a loft he had created in SoHo for an artist, but most important, says the wife, "We immediately clicked with Daniel. We seemed to share the same aesthetic, and he was genuinely enthusiastic about our space."

What had sold them on this property was not just its proximity to the river, but its expansive, open views. "This place had unusually large fenestration," the wife explains. "The river is visible the moment

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one enters." It was the only apartment in the building with such substantial windows and, even better, Romualdez was permitted to replace the existing glass with floor-to-ceiling panes that immediately endow the rooms with a contemporary spirit. And the vantage point on a low floor gives a feeling, he says, that "you are floating on the river, constantly looking at the water, as opposed to across to Long Island or Queens. Here you are so conscious of the river and the boat traffic, which is very dynamic; it inspired me to stay calm in terms of the decorating."

Which is not to say he didn't have his work cut out for him. Romualdez first encountered what he calls a "Tuscan fantasy" concocted by the previous owners, including "orange stucco Venetiano walls that looked like they belonged in an Italian restaurant." The sprawling apartment was completely gutted, and the floor plan was reconfigured to better define the entry, expand the kitchen, and create a breakfast area from what had been a pantry. Upstairs, a new master bath, dressing room, and office were carved out of existing bedrooms. A floating stair was installed to link the two floors.

Once the plan was established and the renovations were under way, Romualdez turned his focus to the decor: "I see a space, and within minutes it tells me what to do, and my mind is speeding. Next, I try to get inside my client's head. It is my goal to try to mesh her taste and style with what the apartment wants to be. If there is a happy marriage, then you have a successful job."

The happy marriage here was based on rigor. In the living area, the dark-stained wide-plank oak floors are set off by a single color and a single fabric, a pale linen used throughout—on the pair of swiveling club chairs that channel Jean-Michel Frank, on the banquettes flanking the fireplace that were inspired by Billy Baldwin slipper chairs, and on the classic-lined sofa. "I had the guts to keep it that simple because the room had scale and high ceilings," the designer says. "In the original Jean-Michel Frank interiors that inspire so

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Clockwise from top: The mirror in the dining area is flanked by works by Jean Dubuffet; the table is by Gracie, and the dining chairs sport slipcovers by Monte Coleman. Romualdez designed the kitchen island and cabinetry; the stools are by Lapalma. The cantilevered staircase in the entry. The kitchen range is by Wolf, and the hood is by Vent-A-Hood. Facing page: In the library, the armchair and ottoman are by Jonas, the cocktail table is by Garrison Rousseau, and the rug is an antique Oushak; the slipper chairs are by Mecox Gardens. See Resources.

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many of us, the restrained furniture works well juxtaposed with strong architecture. I was emboldened to keep the upholstery here this low-key because of that. And every time we would try to diversify to another texture or fabric, it seemed like such an arbitrary choice."

The apartment does have its discreet flourishes. Color is introduced via artworks by Miró and Dubuffet. Dining chairs by Restoration Hardware sport custom-made slipcovers with laced backs that evoke corsetry ("I am a big fan of mixing high and low," Romualdez acknowledges). In the living room fireplace, flames spring from a bed of glistening crystals, while the library next door is ringed with bookshelves. "I wanted a contrast between the empty living-and-dining area and a very cozy room," he says. "In fact, the desk, the sofa, and the slipper chairs in the library came from the owners' previous apartment. I think it is really important—even if the client requests a big change—to bring the past into it. They were very clear about what they were happy to leave behind, and I was the one who said, 'Are you sure you don't want to keep that?'"

The result is a luxe yet serene hybrid of uptown and down. "A lot of people in New York are constantly being bombarded with 'design thinking,'" says Romualdez. "Not many clients have the courage and confidence to be this restrained. If I had this space, I would have done the same thing." ■

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The master bath features acid-etched-glass walls, marble floors, and a bench designed by Romualdez; the .25 bathtub by Waterworks has Dornbracht fittings, and the towels are by Restoration Hardware. Facing page, from top: In the master bedroom, the bedside lamp is from MSK Illuminations, and the flat-screen television is by Samsung; the walls are upholstered in a Rogers & Goffigon wool, and the curtains are of a Clarence House silk taffeta. The master bath's medicine cabinets were designed by Romualdez, and the sink fittings are by Dornbracht. See Resources.

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The living area of stylist Juan Carlos Garcia-Lavin's Manhattan apartment features a tufted-leather sofa by Room & Board and a pair of 1940s carved-wood chairs; the collection of artworks includes flea-market finds and pieces by Garcia-Lavin's friends. The walls throughout are painted in Decorator's White by Benjamin Moore. Facing page: Brushed-steel and leather-and-chrome benches from Jensen-Lewis serve as cocktail tables, and the wool rug is by ABC Carpet & Home. See Resources.

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SOFT FOCUS

PHOTO STYLIST JUAN CARLOS GARCIA-LAVIN HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIMSELF A DIE-HARD MINIMALIST, BUT A NEW MANHATTAN SPACE MELLOWED HIS LESS-IS-MORE STANCE

TEXT BY MITCHELL OWENS · PHOTOGRAPHED AND PRODUCED BY SIMON UPTON

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JUAN CARLOS GARCIA-LAVIN swears he would love to be a minimalist and live in rooms as sparely furnished as an art gallery. Actually, for about a decade, the Havana-born, Miami-bred, and Manhattan-based interior and still-life stylist did just that. He owned a studio apartment in a prewar building near Madison Square Park, a leafy oasis across from the historic Flatiron Building, with stark white walls and lean furniture so unforgiving his friends would complain every time they came to visit.

Then he joined romantic forces with George Fesser, a social worker and immigration-rights activist who likes to entertain. Under that softening influence, Garcia-Lavin began to understand that a cozy home can still have modern integrity. "Now I have furniture with cushions," says the stylist, known as JC, with a laugh. "This place is definitely more comfortable than it was before."

It's quite a bit larger too. When Garcia-Lavin learned the studio next door to his was for sale, he purchased it, broke through the connecting wall, and embarked on a lengthy renovation. The units have been combined into a one-bedroom, two-bath wonder that feels far more spacious than its nearly 1,000 square feet.

Sure, the white walls Garcia-Lavin prefers—painted with Benjamin Moore's warm-tone Decorator's White and free of distracting moldings—go a long way in encouraging an expansive atmosphere. "I have a problem with colored walls because I own so much art and like it to pop," he explains. Also in the apartment's space-enhancing favor is a range of tall windows that welcome sunlight for most of each day. But a closer look at what Garcia-Lavin has wrought reveals a bevy of intelligent tricks, both cosmetic and structural.

"I like easy access and user-friendly environments," he says, noting that one of his looking-large solutions is fool-the-eye furniture placement: "No piece is backed up against a wall, except the bed." In the living area, two dark sofas and a pair of benches turned cocktail tables

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A white-lacquer table by Calligaris with vintage Italian side chairs in the dining area; the wall is painted in Benjamin Moore's Twilight Zone. Facing page, clockwise from top: The kitchen's custom-made walnut cabinetry is by William Feeney Studio, the oven is by Electrolux, and the stools are from White Furniture Industries. The walls are sheathed in Bisazza mosaic tile, and the dishwasher is by Electrolux. Photo stylist Garcia-Lavin. See Resources.

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Clockwise from top left: A selection of photographic artworks by Garcia-Lavin is arranged vertically in the dining area, and an assortment of rocks gathered on vacations and photo shoots is displayed in a tall glass vessel. Bisazza glass-mosaic tile sheathes the bathroom walls. The office, in what had originally been a kitchen. The floor plan of the apartment, composed of two conjoined studios. Facing page: Drawings and photographs by Garcia-Lavin and a stool by BoConcept in the bedroom. See Resources.

are pulled into the center of the ebony-stained floor, allowing visitors to wander freely around the perimeter and opening up sight lines, which, Garcia-Lavin points out, "gives the illusion of more room." On both sides, narrow columns of ceiling-high bookcases—they resemble tall drawers ever-so-slightly pulled out from the walls—further amplify the spaciousness. Open so light can shine through and painted that same classic shade of white as the walls, the shelves free up the floor and at the same time hold hundreds of art books.

During the renovation, which included the construction of a snug walnut-and-marble kitchen and resurfacing the baths with Bisazza glass tiles in two shades of green ("green is my favorite color," he says), Garcia-Lavin took the opportunity to increase the height of the doorways. It's a small gesture that someone less exacting might have overlooked. Now instead of stopping at standard height, they stretch to the

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ceiling, an alteration that appears to increase the altitude and allows the rooms to flow together. The wall between the living and dining areas has been smartly resculpted too. It originally separated the two apartments, but was dismantled and replaced with a narrower wall that acts as a room divider, painted dark green, with audio-visual equipment on the living area side and a snow-white-lacquered table and skeletal 1970s chairs pulled up on the dining side.

Given Garcia-Lavin's aspirations to minimalism, he has managed to amass a surprisingly impressive haul of art and objects of curiosity, among them flea-market paintings, chemical beakers and glass vessels, and an intriguing collection of 20th-century medical lithographs that explore the inner workings of the human body; the latter are displayed in the master bath, where they are less likely to creep out squeamish guests. "My mother worked in a pharmacy, and I was always fascinated by anything medical," Garcia-Lavin explains. But his styling techniques have managed to make even that considerable cache seem orderly and restrained. And at one end of the living area, on a wall painted a shade of olive so dark it's practically black, Garcia-Lavin has hung around 30 paintings in a jigsaw-puzzle formation that stretches from wall to wall and floor to ceiling. The centerpiece is a large canvas depicting a gathering of men and women, finely dressed but strangely somber; painted in the '20s, it is the work of French artist Constant-Désiré Clety. "Unifying things in one place makes them look like a single unit," he says of the arrangement, which at first appears to be one immense work of art. "That way I can get away with owning a million things. Gathering objects into giant groups makes a big collection seem calmer." It's comforting, he says with a grin, "because no matter how hard I try, I can't seem to become the minimalist of my dreams." ■

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resources

Items pictured but not listed are from private collections.

TREND ALERT

PAGE 28: **Asymmetric Scissor dress,** $1,595, by *Michael Kors* (for information: michaelkors.com). **Dotto polyurethane blend,** to the trade from *Création Baumann* (for showrooms: creationbaumann.com). **Mix table lamp,** $279, by *BoConcept* (for information: boconcept.com). **Ultrasuede-412 polyester,** to the trade from *Kravet* (for showrooms: kravet.com). **Barbie soap dish,** $20; **lotion pump,** $24; and **tumbler,** $18; all by *Jonathan Adler* (for information: jonathanadler.com). **Landscape chaise longue,** $4,124, by *Jeffrey Bernett* for *B&B Italia* (for information: bebitalia.it). **Speedmaster Ladies' Automatic Chronograph,** $7,800, by *Omega* (for information: omegawatches.com). **Cavallini European hair-on cowhide,** to the trade from *Edelman Leather* (for showrooms: edelmanleather.com). **Original Women's Tall boots,** $115, by *Hunter,* available at *Nordstrom* (for information: nordstrom.com). **Washed Canvas cotton,** $63/yd., by *Ralph Lauren Home* (for information: ralphlaurenhome.com). **Lizard bangles,** in yellow, $1,050; orange, $1,380; and pink, $1,120; all by *Bottega Veneta* (for information: bottegaveneta.com). **Geneva cotton-linen,** by *Villa Romo,* to the trade from *Romo* (for showrooms: romo.com). **Cotton Club II cotton,** by *Manuel Canovas,* to the trade from *Cowtan & Tout* (for showrooms: cowtan.com). **Delicious Boucle wool blend** by *Isaac Mizrahi,* to the trade from *S. Harris* (for showrooms: sharris.com). **Ice chair,** $237, by *Archirivolto* for *Calligaris* (for information: calligaris.us).

SHORTLIST

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Publications Mail Agreement No. 40052054
Canadian Registration Number 126018209RT0001
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
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from *Valerie Carberry Gallery* (for information: valeriecarberry-.com). In guest bedroom, **Jaipur desk/chest of drawers** from *Espasso* (for information: espasso.com). In master bedroom, **Modern Greek Key** and **Modern Bamboo bedding,** to the trade from *Chaz Stevens Bed & Bath* (for information: chazstevensdesign.com). Chairs and curtains of **Linara cotton-linen,** to the trade from *Romo* (for showrooms: romo.com).

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PAGE 98: **Bridport silk,** $168/yd., by *Ralph Lauren Home* (for information: ralphlaurenhome.com). **Seventieth Anniversary Alhambra necklace,** $7,200, by *Van Cleef & Arpels* (for information: vancleef-arpels.com). **Spiral Effect vase,** $15, by *Two's Company* (for information: twoscompany.com). **PAGE 99:** **Chrysanthemum Gourd vase,** $375, by *Williams-Sonoma Home* (for information: wshome.com). **Langley vase,** $295, by *Ralph Lauren Home* (for information: ralphlaurenhome-.com). **Chinese planter,** $295, from *Flair* (for information: flairhomecollection.com). **Tall bottle,** $145, by *Judy Jackson Stoneware* (for information: judyjacksonstoneware.com). **Chinese Phoenix vase,** $485, from *Flair.* **Miles chair** by *Jed Johnson,* to the trade from *John Rosselli & Assoc.* (for information: johnrosselliassociates.com). **Floral jar,** $150, by *Williams-Sonoma Home.* **Chinese Basket Shape vase,** $295, from *Flair.* **Tree of Life wall hanging,** $300, by *Les Indiennes* (for information: lesindiennesshop.com). **PAGES 100–01:** **Almidi table,** $650, by *Casamidy* (for information: casamidy.com). **Mineral vase,** $325, by *Calvin Klein Home* (for information: calvinklein.com). **Aurora Double Gourd lamp,** $1,990, by *Christopher Spitzmiller Inc.* (for information: christopherspitzmiller.com). **Lapis lazuli boxes,** $600, $2,000, and $3,500, all by *Ruzzetti and Gow* (for information: ruzzettiandgow.com). **So Kelly bag,** $5,950, by *Hermès* (for information: hermes.com). **Striped scarf,** $187, by *Meg Cohen* from *John Derian Dry Goods* (for information: johnderian.com). **The Lotus Papers wall covering,** $320 per roll, by *Farrow & Ball* (for information: farrow-ball.com). **Bedcover,** $2,170, by *Aboubakar Fofana* for *ABC Carpet & Home* (for information: abchome.com). **Sevigne bergère,** $1,695, by *Pierre Deux* (for information: pierredeux.com). **Small diamond indigo ikat cotton,** to the trade from *John Robshaw Textiles* (for information: johnrobshaw.com). **Java pillow,** $106, by *The Koko Co.* (for information: kokotrends-.com). **Indigo-dipped painting,** $550, by *John Robshaw Textiles.* **Tung lantern,** $295, by *Casamidy.* **Monumental horse head,** $2,800, from *Flair* (for information: flairhomecollection.com). **PAGE 102:** **Indigo Dip pillow,** $50, by *John Robshaw Textiles* (for information: johnrobshaw.com). **Stripes Design #5 cotton,** $150/meter, by *Les Indiennes* (for information: lesindiennesshop-.com). **Etienne floral linen,** $216/yd., by *Ralph Lauren Home* (for information: ralphlaurenhome.com). **Original blue-check standard pillow sham,** $65, by *Hästens* (for information: hastens-.com). **Bagru indigo linen,** to the trade from *John Robshaw Textiles.* **La Garoupe throw-pillow sham,** $495, by *Ralph Lauren Home.* **Dark Indigo Herringbone Ikat cotton,** to the trade from *John Robshaw Textiles.* **Quilted throw,** $145, by *Utility Canvas* (for information: utilitycanvas.com). **Flower Cut Out 4 linen,** $110/yd., by *Vanderhurd* (for information: vanderhurd.com). **PAGE 103:** **Turtle platter,** $100, from *Aero* (for information: aerostudios.com). **Imari bowl,** $53/set of 5; and **Senbiki off-center bowl,** $56; both from *Dandelion* (for information: 888-548-1968). **Blue Dragon bread-and-butter plate,** $40; and **dessert plate,** $50; both by *Mottahedeh* (for information: mottahedeh.com). **Adelaide salad plate** and **cereal bowl,** $25 ea., by *Ralph Lauren Home* (for information: ralphlaurenhome-.com). **Teacup,** $7, from *Dandelion.* **Hiragata Meshi-Wan bowl,** $30, by *Hakusan Porcelain Co.,* available at *Tortoise General Store* (for information: tortoisegeneralstore.com). **Bowl,** $100, by *Daniel Reynolds* for *Ruzzetti and Gow* (for information: ruzzettiandgow.com). **Antibes dessert plate,** $55, by *Ralph Lauren Home.* **Starburst plate,** $23/set of 4; and **Senbiki bowl,** $15; both from *Dandelion.*

CLEAN LIVING

PAGES 104–09: **Architecture** and **interior design** by *Daniel Romualdez* of *Daniel Romualdez Architects* (for information: 212-989-8429).
PAGE 104: **Custom-made mantel** by *Daniel Romualdez.* **Cocktail table** by *André Joyau Studio* (for information: andrejoyau.com). **Decorative wall finish** by *Stuart-Creal Studio* (for information: stuart-crealstudio.com).
PAGE 105: **Custom-made sofa** and **club chairs,** to the trade from *DeAngelis Ltd.* (for information: 212-348-8225); and **custom-made banquettes** by *Daniel Romualdez,* to the trade from *Albert Vitiello Decorator's Workroom* (for information: 516-433-6833); all upholstered in **Bastille linen,** to the trade from *Holland & Sherry* (for showrooms: hollandandsherry.com). **Custom-made floor lamps** by *Daniel Romualdez* for *Wainland's Inc.* (for information: wainlands.com). **Pace rug,** to the trade from *Patterson, Flynn & Martin* (for showrooms: pattersonflynnandmartin.com).
PAGE 106: **Armchair** and **ottoman,** to the trade from *Jonas* (for information: jonasworkroom.com). **Cocktail table,** to the trade from *Garrison Rousseau* (for showrooms: garrisonrousseau.com). **Slipper chairs** by *Mecox Gardens* (for information: mecoxgardens.com).
PAGE 107: In dining area, **custom-made table** by *Gracie Inc.* (for information: graciestudio.com). **Custom-made slipcovers,** to the trade from *Monte Coleman* (for information: 212-463-0085). In kitchen, **barstools** by *Lapalma,* available at *M2L* (for information: m2lcollection.com). **Range** by *Wolf* (for information: wolfappliance.com). **Hood** by *Vent-A-Hood* (for information: ventahood.com).
PAGE 108: In master bedroom, **table lamp** from *MSK Illuminations Inc.* (for information: mskillumination.com). **Television** by *Samsung* (for information: samsung.com). Walls upholstered by *J. Edlin Interiors* (for information: 212-243-2111), in **Putti wool,** to the trade from *Rogers & Goffigon* (for showrooms: 203-532-8068). Curtains of **Taffeta Soie silk,** to the trade from *Clarence House* (for showrooms: clarencehouse.com). **Custom-made bed** by *J. Edlin Interiors.* In master bath, **Meta.02 sink fittings** by *Dornbracht* (for information: dornbracht.com).
PAGE 109: **.25 bathtub** by *Waterworks* (for information: waterworks.com). **Meta.02 tub filler** by *Dornbracht* (for information: dornbracht.com). **Towels** by *Restoration Hardware* (for information: restorationhardware.com).

SOFT FOCUS

PAGES 110–15: Walls throughout painted in **Decorator's White** by *Benjamin Moore* (for information: benjaminmoore.com).
PAGES 110–11: **Wells 101" sofa** by *Room & Board* (for information: roomandboard.com). **Small Amici** and **Karlee benches** from *Jensen-Lewis* (for information: jensen-lewis.com). **Kilim** by *ABC Carpet & Home* (for information: abchome.com).
PAGE 112: In kitchen, **custom-made cabinetry** by *William Feeney Studio* (for information: williamfeeneystudio.com). **Icon oven** and **dishwasher** by *Electrolux* (for information: electroluxicon.com). **Stools** from *White Furniture Industries* (for information: whiteonwhite.com). Walls sheathed in **Vetricolor tiles** by *Bisazza* (for information: bisazza.com).
PAGE 113: **Modern table** by *Calligaris* from *Jensen-Lewis* (for information: jensen-lewis.com). Wall painted in **Twilight Zone** by *Benjamin Moore* (for information: benjaminmoore.com).
PAGE 114: In master bath, walls sheathed in **Vetricolor tiles** by *Bisazza* (for information: bisazza.com).
PAGE 115: **Stool** by *BoConcept* (for information: boconcept.us).

ETCETERA

PAGE 120: **Hexagon tray,** $175, by *Jonathan Adler* (for information: jonathanadler.com). **Rectangular tray,** $345/sm., by *Hermès* (for information: hermes.com). **Customized tray,** in point pink pattern, $200, by *Iomoi* (for information: shopiomoi.com). **Zebra tray,** $72, by *Jayes Studio* from *Shells and Mermaids* (for information: shellsandmermaids.com). **Kelly Wearstler tray,** $795, by *Kelly Wearstler* for *Bergdorf Goodman* (for information: 800-558-1855). **Color Wheel tray,** $24, by *French Bull* (for information: frenchbull.com). **Suzani tray,** $70, by *Decorative Things* (for information: decorativethings.com). **Sumi tray,** $150/sm., by *Calvin Klein Home* (for information: calvinklein.com). **Durban Square tray,** $225, by *Ralph Lauren Home* (for information: ralphlaurenhome.com).

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ELLE DECOR (ISSN 1046-1957), (USPS 005-583), January/February 2010, volume #21, issue #1, is published monthly except bimonthly in January/February and July/August by Hachette Filipacchi Magazines, Inc., 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY 10001 and at additional mailing offices. Authorized periodicals postage by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada, and for payment in cash. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ELLE DECOR, P.O. Box 55850, Boulder, CO 80322-5850; (386) 597-4375; Fax (303) 604-7644; customerservice-elledecor.com. If the postal services alert us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within one year.

U.S. Postal Service: Statement of Ownership

1. Publication Title: ELLE DECOR
2. Publication Number: 0005-5830
3. Filing Date: 10/1/09
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly except bimonthly in July/August and January/February
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 10
6. Annual Subscription Price: $15.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Contact Person: Vesta P. Cordero: 212-767-6531
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
9. Full Names and Complete Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor:
Publisher: Barbara Friedmann, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019;
Editor: Margaret Russell, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019;
Managing Editor: Michael Boodro, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.
10. Owner: Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc., 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. The following is a list of holders of record of 1 percent or more of Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc.: 100% of the stock is owned by Lagardère North America, Inc., 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: Hachette Filipacchi Holdings, Inc., 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates): Not applicable.
13. Publication Title: ELLE DECOR
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data: July/August 2009
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 months:	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date:
a. Total no. of copies (net press run)	665,784	662,240
b. Paid circulation (by mail and outside the mail):		
1. Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541:	388,368	381,331
2. Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541:	0	0
3. Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other paid distribution outside USPS:	87,437	86,995
4. Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS:	0	0
c. Total paid distribution [sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3) and (4)]:	475,805	468,326
d. Free or nominal rate distribution (by mail and outside the mail):		
1. Outside-county copies included on PS form 3541:	49,438	61,580
2. In-county copies included on PS form 3541:	0	0
3. Copies mailed at other classes through the USPS:	0	0
4. Distribution outside the mail (carriers of other means):	6,094	2,434
e. Total free or nominal rate distribution [sum of 15d. (1), (2), (3) and (4)]:	55,532	64,014
f. Total distribution (sum of 15c. and 15e.):	531,337	532,340
g. Copies not distributed:	134,447	129,900
h. Total (sum of 15f. and g.):	665,784	662,240
i. Percent paid	89.55%	87.97%

16. Publication Statement of Ownership will be printed in the January/February 2010 issue of this publication.
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